NATION

Scribe Siddique Kappan, 10 others booked in Kerala

≫ Page: 4 ≪

BUSINESS

Govt reopens PLI application window for AC, LED lights

≫ Page: 7 ≪

SPORTS

ISSF: Meghana wins maiden WC medal, India finish 5th

≫ Page: 8 ≪

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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DKS announces Rs 1,100 crore to repair City roads

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the State government had approved Rs 1,100 to repair and reconstruct the City's roads. In a Sunday statement on X, he said that the City would now see a major push in road development. "We are committed to ensuring every constituency benefits from these funds and to building smooth, pothole-free roads across the City," he wrote. According to the plan, 14 assembly constituencies will each receive Rs 50 crore, while the others will get Rs 25 crore apiece. The funds will be used to fix and reconstruct damaged roads across the City. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 2

Olympic medallist Aman disqualified for weight

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Olympic medallist Aman Sehrawat was on Sunday disqualified from the World Championship in Zagreb after being found overweight, dealing a massive blow to Indian contingent at the prestigious tournament. In what turned to be an embarrassing development, Aman, who won a bronze at Paris Olympics last year, was found overweight by 1.7kg during the weigh-in ahead of the competition in the men's freestyle 57kg. "He was overweight by 1700g when he stood in the weight scale. This is not acceptable, actually. How did he get so much extra weight is beyond us," a source within the Indian contingent told said from Zagreb. *—PTI*

Over 1L people join anti-immigration protest in UK

LONDON, 13 SEPT

More than 1,00,000 people took part in an anti-immigration march in London on Saturday organised by far-right activist Tommy Robinson, as small groups of supporters clashed with police. Officers were punched, kicked, and hit with bottles before riot units intervened. At least twenty six arrests were made. Robinson, founder of the English Defence League, claimed migrants had "more rights than the British public." French politician Eric Zemmour spoke of a "great replacement," while Elon Musk, via video, warned of the "erosion of Britain". Musk said that violence was coming. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 6

Sourav Ganguly returns as CAB President

KOLKATA, 14 SEPT

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly is all set to be elected unopposed as the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).

He will replace his brother Snehasish from the post. Ganguly was the lone candidate to file his nomination papers for the top post. He is set to return as the CAB chief after six years. He had earlier served as the CAB president from 2015 to 2019.

"It is no challenge. I have eight years of experience in this--five years as CAB President, three years as the BCCI President. So I'll try and do my best," Ganguly said while speaking to reporters about his nomination. *—ANI*

>>>More on Page 8

Beggars homes are worse than jails, says SC

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

A beggars' home maintained by the state is not a discretionary charity and its administration must reflect the values of constitutional morality, the Supreme Court said while issuing a slew of directions to ensure that dignified living conditions are maintained continuously at such centres.

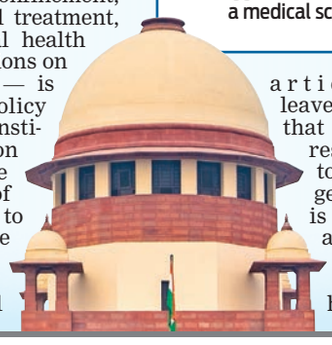
A Bench of Justices JB Pardiwala and R Mahadevan, in a 12 September judgment published on Sunday, said the poor in beggars' homes are deprived of the even basic constitutional protections afforded to convicts in prisons.

"Any arrangement that degenerates into a prison-like environment — characterised by overcrowding, unhygienic conditions, arbitrary or involuntary confinement, denial of medical treatment, neglect of mental health needs, or restrictions on personal liberty — is not merely a policy failure, but a constitutional infraction striking at the very heart of Article 21 [right to life]," Justice Mahadevan, observed.

"This judicial articulation leaves no doubt that the state's responsibility towards indigent persons is affirmative and non-derogable. A beggars' home, maintained by the state, is thus a constitutional trust, not a discretionary charity. Its administration must reflect the values of constitutional morality – ensuring liberty, privacy, bodily autonomy, and dignified living conditions," the bench said.

"Monthly health check-ups shall be conducted for all inmates by a designated medical team," the court said.

The directions came in a case arising out of an incident at a beggars' home in Lampur in North Delhi district, where contamination of drinking and cooking water with coliform bacteria resulted in an outbreak of cholera and gastroenteritis. *—PTI*



KEY ORDERS

- Govt must pay reasonable compensation for deaths of an inmate due to negligence.
- Every person admitted to a beggars' home must undergo a medical screening within 24 hours of admission.
- Govts must conduct an independent third-party audit of every home once every 2yrs.
- The inmates shall be informed about their legal rights.
- Children found begging must not be detained in these homes but referred to child welfare institutions.

Cong backing Pak-groomed terrorists: PM's fresh barb

PM announces a slew of development projects in Assam

MANGALDOI, 14 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday alleged that the Congress, instead of supporting the country's army, was backing terrorists groomed by Pakistan.

Addressing a programme at Mangaldoi in Assam's Darrang district, he asserted the BJP would "not allow infiltrators to grab land and conspire to change the demography".

'Operation Sindoor' was successful due to Ma Kamakhya's blessings, Modi said.

At another rally at Numaligarh in Golaghat district, Modi said the central government is taking steps to reduce crude oil and gas imports, focusing more on the exploration of fossil fuels and green energy.

The BJP's double-engine government is committed to realising the dreams of Assam's great sons like Hazarika, Modi said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the foundation stone laying ceremony of a polypropylene plant, in Golaghat, Assam *PHOTO: PTI*

Modi also praised Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma for "evicting infiltrators from encroached land and ensuring that farmers can now cultivate".

The land parcels once illegally occupied are now witnessing an agricultural revolution in the hands of farmers and indigenous people, he claimed.

The PM asserted that India was emerging as one of the world's fastest-growing economies, and said that Assam's growth rate was 13 per cent.

During the programmes, Modi laid the foundation stones for health and infrastructure projects worth Rs 6,300 crore at Mangaldoi.

He also laid the foundation stones for the 2.9 km-long Narengi-Kuruwa bridge with an estimated cost of Rs 1,200 crore and the 118.5 km-long Guwahati Ring Road project, connecting Kamrup and Darrang districts in Assam and Ri Bhoi in Meghalaya. *—PTI*

> **Congress, instead of supporting the Indian Army, backs terrorists groomed by Pakistan. During 'Op Sindoor', Cong.... was engaged in protecting infiltrators and anti-national forces**
>
> -Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

'NO LANGUAGE CONFLICT'

Language of science, judiciary, and police should be Hindi: Shah

GANDHINAGAR, 14 SEPT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday said that Hindu should must become a language of science, technology, the judiciary, and police. He stressed there was no conflict between Hindi and other Indian languages.

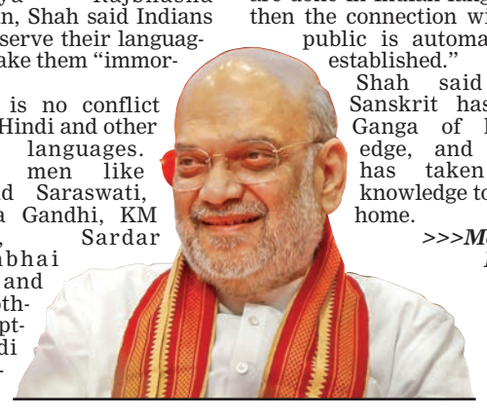
Addressing the inaugural session of the 5th Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan, Shah said Indians must preserve their languages and make them "immortal".

"There is no conflict between Hindi and other Indian languages. Learned men like Dayanand Saraswati, Mahatma Gandhi, KM Munshi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and many others accepted Hindi and promoted it. Gujarat, where Gujarati and Hindi have coexisted, is an excellent example of the development of both languages," he said.

The Union minister said, "Hindi is not just a spoken language or a language of administration. Hindi should also be the language of science, technology, justice and police. When all these works are done in Indian languages, then the connection with the public is automatically established."

Shah said that Sanskrit has "the Ganga of knowledge, and Hindi has taken this knowledge to every home. *—PTI*

>>>More on Page 3



Sushila Karki officially takes charge as Nepal's interim PM

KATHMANDU, 14 SEPT

Sushila Karki has officially assumed the role of interim Prime Minister of Nepal, making history as the first woman to hold the position.

The former chief justice was sworn in after the Gen Z protests against political stagnation, corruption, forced much of the government to resign.

Karki took charge at the newly-built Home Ministry in Singhdurbar and quickly addressed the nation, stating that individuals involved in the violence during the protests would be "brought to justice."

She also declared victims of the unrest as "martyrs" and announced a compensation of one million Nepali rupees for their families.

The protests have led to a tragic death toll of 72, including 59 protesters, three police officers, and 10 inmates.

Karki urged a commitment to "economic equality and the eradication of corruption," reflecting the protesters' demands.

Elections are set for 5 March 2026 as Karki prepares to form a Cabinet with figures from both the movement and traditional politics. *—Agencies*

>>>More on Page 6

Nepal's interim Prime Minister Sushila Karki, in Kathmandu, Nepal, Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

3,700 inmates, who had escaped jails during the protests have been arrested.

5.8 magnitude quake jolts Northeast, WB

GUWAHATI/SILIGURI 14 SEPT

A 5.8 magnitude earthquake struck parts of the Northeast and adjoining West Bengal on Sunday evening, followed by three aftershocks within one-and-a-half hours, leaving at least two people injured and damaging scores of houses in Assam.

The first jolt of 5.8 magnitude was recorded at 4.41 pm, the second tremor of 3.1 magnitude was felt at 4.58pm, followed by another tremor of 2.9 magnitude at 5.21pm. The fourth jolt was of 2.7 magnitude and recorded at 6.11 pm.

The Assam State Disaster Management said two girls were injured in Udalguri due to the ceiling collapse of a hostel, and several houses were damaged in the state.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and assured all support from the Centre. *—PTI*

NO BUYERS

With people boycotting the India and Pakistan Asia Cup match on Sunday, jerseys and caps went unsold near M Chinnaswamy Stadium in City *PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD*

Boxers Lamboria, Hooda crowned world champions

LIVERPOOL, 14 SEPT

Indian boxing celebrated a golden weekend as Jaismine Lamboria (57kg) and Minakshi Hooda (48kg) were crowned world champions at the Women's World Boxing Championships.

Jaismine produced a commanding performance to beat Paris Olympics silver medallist Julia Szeremeta of Poland 4-1 in Saturday's final. Displaying composure and sharp counter-attacks, the 24-year-old Indian overcame a slow start to dominate the later rounds. Her precise jabs and defensive control turned the bout in her favour, and as the final verdict was announced, she erupted with emotion before embracing her opponent.

Jaismine Lamboria and Minakshi Hooda *PHOTO: X*

A day later, Minakshi matched the feat with a clinical 4-1 win against Olympic bronze medallist Nazym Kyzaibay of Kazakhstan in the 48kg final, further strengthening India's standing in world boxing.

The victories place them alongside legends like Mary Kom, Nikhat Zareen, and Lovlina Borgohain, who have all held world titles.

Meanwhile, Nupur Sheoran (80+kg) secured silver after a narrow 2-3 loss to Poland's Agata Kaczmarska, while veteran Pooja Rani (80kg) settled for bronze after falling to England's Emily Asquith.

The campaign capped a proud moment for Indian boxing, highlighting a new generation of champions. *—PTI*

'NICOTINE ALTERNATIVES WORK'

Smoking kills 1.3 lakh Indians annually

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Tobacco kills at least 10.3 lakh Indians every year as quit rates remain very low despite widespread awareness.

India spends at least Rs 1.77 lakh crore annually on tobacco-related diseases. Healthcare experts are now calling for the use of alternatives such as smoke-free nicotine. Scientists want science-backed harm reduction strategies.

Dr Pawan Gupta, senior consultant, Pulmonary Medicine at BLK-MAX Super Specialty Hospital, Delhi, said that for patients with cardiovascular risks, every cigarette avoided matters.

"Scientific review, including those by Royal College of Physicians (UK), shows that non-combustible nicotine delivery carries significantly lower risks compared to smoking. That evidence cannot be ignored."

Public Health England (PHE, UK) estimates that smoke-free nicotine alternatives are up to 95 per cent less harmful because they remove tar and combustion.

Globally, nicotine pouches have gained traction as discreet oral alternatives to cigarettes. These products are now available in 34 countries.

7% quit voluntarily

In India, one in 10 people dies prematurely due to tobacco-related diseases. According to Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, quit rates in India remain low; only about 7 per cent of smokers successfully kick the butt unaided. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

11 cops suspended in City for links with drug peddlers

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

Eleven police personnel, including Chamarajapet inspector T Manjanna, have been suspended pending a departmental inquiry over allegations of collusion with drug peddlers. Among those suspended are head constable Ramesh and constables Shivraj, Madhusudan, Prasanna, Shankar Belagali, Anand, and Jag Jeevanram Nagar police personnel Basavanagudi Gowda, Kumar, and Anand. The drug racket was uncovered on 22 August when Rajarajeshwari Nagar police apprehended six peddlers selling banned sedative tablets, with around 1,000 tablets seized. Investigations indicated that the accused officers maintained regular contact with the peddlers, allegedly collecting 'protection money' monthly and socialising with them, enabling the gang to operate unhindered in the west division. *—PTI*

FHRAI's annual convention to host 1,500 delegates

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) has announced its annual convention will take place in the City from 18 to 20 September. State Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will inaugurate the three-day event, which will also feature participation from Union ministers, chief ministers, and senior officials.

This year's theme, 'FutureScape 2047: Redefining Hospitality for a New India,' anticipates over 1,500 delegates, including hoteliers, restaurateurs, and global experts, engaging in transformative discussions.

Organising committee chairman K Ravi stated that expert-led sessions will include topics such as 'Privacy is the New Luxury', 'The Gastronomic OS', 'Beyond Contactless', and 'Sustainability and Growth', all aimed at positioning the industry as India approaches its centenary of independence. *—PTI*

Bye potholes? City gets ₹1,100 crore to fix roads

DyCM announces Rs 147 crore to control pollution in the City

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said that the State government had approved Rs 1,100 to repair and construct the City's roads.

In a statement on X Sunday, he said that "We are committed to ensuring every constituency benefits from these funds and to building smooth, pothole-free roads across the City."

He said the City would now see a major push in road development.

Residents have become increasingly frustrated with the City's roads and infrastructure.

Shivakumar had recently launched 'Gundi Gamana' app, which allows citizens to complain about damages on roads to authorities. He promised that authorities would then promptly fix the potholes.

The announcement comes after the constitution of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which replaced the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike. The GBA divided the City into five new corporations - Bengaluru Central, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru East, and Bengaluru West.

Shivakumar also announced that the government approved a revised Rs 147 crore action plan to control air pollution in the City and "make it green under the GBA".

"The grant was allocated to Bengaluru under the National Clean Air Programme (NCP) in 2023-24. Now it has been revised and allocated for construction of new parks, air pollution control, development of footpaths and roads," he said.

The funds would be used for developing new parks & urban green spaces across the City; Scientific closure of Bagalur landfill to cut pollution and fire risk; strengthening EV charging and clean mobility infrastructure and enhancing footpaths, road upgrades & green cover in major localities, he said. *—Salar News*

An open drain poses a threat to motorists on Queen's Road in Bengaluru
PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD

DKS' plan to fix the City

As roads and infra worsen in the City, here's a breakdown of the government's allocation

₹50 crore
each for 14 assembly constituencies.

₹25 crore
each for the remaining assembly constituencies

Fund Allocations

Road Infrastructure: ₹30.5 crore

BSWML: ₹25 crore

Climate Action Cell: ₹30 crore

Horticulture: ₹30 crore

Bescom: ₹21.90 crore

BMTC: ₹10 crore

At least 300 people died in the recent flash floods in Himachal Pradesh, while hundreds others died in Punjab, J&K, and Haryana PHOTO: PTI

CM gives Rs 5 cr for Himachal flood relief

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah** said that the State government would contribute Rs 5 crore towards disaster relief and rehabilitation efforts to flood hit Himachal Pradesh.

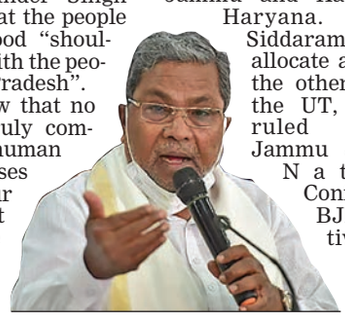
In a Sunday post on X, Siddaramaiah shared a 12 Sept letter he penned to his Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, saying that the people of Karnataka stood "shoulder to shoulder with the people of Himachal Pradesh".

"While we know that no sum can ever truly compensate for the human and material losses suffered, it is our earnest hope that this assistance will bring some immediate relief to the affected families," he said in the letter.

"We are confident that, under your leadership, the state will emerge from this tragedy with renewed strength and resolve," SIddaramaiah wrote to his fellow Congressman.

At least 300 people died in the recent flash floods in Himachal Pradesh, while hundreds others died in Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, and Haryana. However, Siddaramaiah didn't allocate any funds to the other states and the UT, which are ruled by AAP, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference and BJP respectively.

— Salar News



Govt invites royal family to Dasara

MYSURU, 14 SEPT

District In-charge Minister HC Mahadevappa on Sunday officially invited the royal family to attend the world-renowned Mysuru Dasara celebrations.

Maintaining the long-standing tradition, Mahadevappa visited the residence of Pramoda Devi Wadiyar at the Mysore Palace and invited her to the festival, offering phala tamboola, a customary gift that includes fruits and betel leaves.

The ritual of inviting the erstwhile royal family remains an integral part of the Dasara celebrations.

It symbolises the historic connection between the Wadiyars and the famed "Nada Habba" of the State.

The ritual of inviting the erstwhile royal family remains an integral part of the Dasara celebrations
PHOTO: SALAR

The Wadiyars played an important role in the evolution of Mysuru Dasara into a globally recognized cultural event, and the government continues to honor their role through this official invitation. The Minister expressed confidence that this year's Dasara would not only showcase Mysuru's cultural grandeur but also attract visitors from across the globe, reinforcing Mysuru's reputation as a hub of heritage and tradition. *—Salar News*

MYSURU DASARA

Activists protest against Mushtaq's invitation

MANDYA, 14 SEPT

Tension grips Mandya on Sunday, as the Bajrang Dal members launched a "Chamundi Betta Chalo" campaign from Mandya's Kalikamba Temple, heading in a convoy of vehicles towards Chamundi Hill.

The protesters voiced out their disagreement towards the government's decision to make writer Banu Mushtaq the inaugurator of this year's Mysuru Dasara celebrations.

They demanded the immediate withdrawal of the decision.

Before the activists could reach Chamundi Hill, police intervened and arrested them. The arrested were taken to Mandya Police Ground and later released.

The protesters under State President B Manjunath, alleged Mushtaq had made derogatory remarks about Mother Bhuvaneshwari and Kannada flag.

"The government is hurting the sentiments of Hindus. It is deliberately attempting to suppress our voices ...She (Mushtaq) should apologise for her derogatory remarks on Bhuvaneshwari," said Manjunath. *—Salar News*

Cops bust Ballari child-trafficking gang, rescue infant

BALLARI, 14 SEPT

Police have busted a child-lifting gang operating in the district hospital in Ballari and rescued a one-and-a-half-month-old baby within 24 hours of the abduction, officials said on Sunday.

The accused—Shameem, her husband Ismail, and an accomplice Basha—allegedly kidnapped the child on Friday and later sold the infant to Basavaraj Mahantappa of Toranagallu, Ballari Superintendent of Police Shobha Rani said.

Basavaraj, who had been childless for 19 years, had approached Basha, self-styled quack, after failing to adopt legally due to stringent rules, Rani said.

Police said, the incident took place when the baby's mother, Sridevi of Benakallu village, visited the district hospital to remove stitches and obtain a birth certificate for her newborn.

Shameem allegedly told her the municipal office would issue the certificate. When Sridevi briefly stepped away to use the restroom, leaving the baby in Shameem's care, the latter fled with the child. Sridevi immediately lodged a complaint at Brucepete police station.

Rani added that Shameem's mother, Zainabi, is a convict in a child-lifting case. *—PTI*

RAISING AWARENESS

Actor Tara Anuradha with volunteers during the STEM Cells awareness walkathon organised by CRY and NGO at Bal Bhavan in Bengaluru on Sunday. India sees at least one lakh blood cancer cases in a year
PHOTO: MOHAMMAD ASAD

Forest minister mulls building elephant soft release centre

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

Experts have recommended setting up an Elephant Soft Release Centre to reduce rising elephant-human conflicts. Forest, Ecology, and Environment Minister **Eshwar B Khandre** said the project would move forward only after taking local communities into confidence.

Chairing a video conference on conflict-mitigation measures and railway barricade projects, Khandre said experts found Tanigebailu more suitable than Muthodi in Chikkamagaluru. A meeting with villagers will be held to discuss the plan. He stressed the need for detailed studies on hotspots, attack timings, and causes. "Timely alerts must be given to villagers," he said, adding the center could significantly cut conflicts. Next week, he will meet the Union Environment Minister in Delhi to seek CAMPA funding.

Khandre flagged delays in creating a command centre to track elephant and wildlife movement, issue warnings, and monitor complaints. On invasive weeds, he directed large-scale eradication of Senna and Lantana, learning from Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

Amid concerns over outsourced staff, he sought a report on pending salaries, EPF deposits, and delays. *—Salar News*

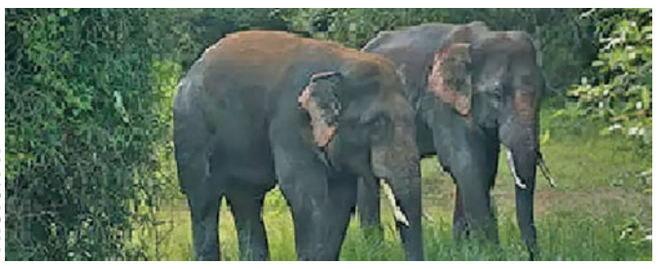


PHOTO: PTI

90-MINUTE ADVENTURE

City auto driver helps passenger find her lost AirPods

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

A simple ride home turned into a 90-minute adventure for Palak Malhotra, a Bengaluru-based marketer, after she accidentally dropped her AirPods in an autorickshaw.

Malhotra realised the AirPods were missing only after reaching home a few days ago.

She first called her gym and checked with the auto driver through Rapido's platform, but he said he couldn't find anything.

Using Apple's 'Find My' feature, she saw the AirPods were moving across HSR Layout.

"I booked another Rapido ride and explained the situation to the new driver, Darshan," Malhotra said on Sunday.

He agreed to help and drove her to three different locations, following the AirPods' signal.

"When I was ready to give up, Darshan told me, 'You can't go home without finding them. 'He took it as his own mission," Malhotra said.

Finally, they found that the AirPods were picked up by another passenger who had taken the earlier ride. At first, he got angry when confronted, but after Darshan warned that the police could get involved, he returned them.

Malhotra was moved by Darshan's kindness. Over tea, he told her that he is a BCom graduate, driving his father's auto to save money for his MBA.

"I have ideas but no money. After my MBA, maybe someone will support me," he said.

Sharing the story on X, Palak Malhotra wrote that Darshan drove her around for over 1.5 hours to help her recover the AirPods worth Rs 20,000
PHOTO: ANI

Sharing the story on X, Malhotra wrote that Darshan drove her around for over 1.5 hours to help her recover the AirPods worth Rs 20,000.

Rapido responded to her X post, saying, "We will be rewarding the captain for this thoughtful gesture." *—PTI*

Hindus perform pregnancy ceremony for Muslim woman

MANDYA, 14 SEPT

PHOTO: AI

- This initiative is seen as a relief in the midst of communal strife in Maddur town in Mandya district and some other parts of the state during Ganesha immersion

In a display of communal harmony, Hindu women in Mandya's Krishnaraja Pete town have performed a 'Seemanta Samskara' ritual for a pregnant Muslim woman.

Seemanta Samskara, a traditional Hindu baby shower ceremony, which is also called 'Godh Bharai' in north India to bless the expectant mother and unborn child.

This initiative is seen as a relief in the midst of communal strife in Maddur town in Mandya district and some other parts of the state during Ganesha immersion processions.

The ceremony was organised during the annual meeting of the town's Graduates Credit Co-operative Society on Saturday.

Hindu women performed the Seemanta ceremony as per Hindu customs for Nagma Bhanu, a staff member of the society.

The gesture has been widely appreciated by the public as a symbol of communal unity and mutual respect. *—PTI*

Assam police chief gets notice over journo's assault

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a notice to the Assam Police chief after reports that a journalist was allegedly assaulted and seriously injured by anti-social elements near Lumding Railway Institute on September 7. The Lumding Press Club and local residents condemned the incident, urging strict action against the attackers and better protection for journalists. The journalist was reportedly rescued by police and taken to hospital for treatment. The NHRC said it had "taken suo motu cognisance" of the matter and noted that, if true, the attack raises serious human rights concerns. It has directed the Assam Director General of Police to submit a detailed report within two weeks.—*PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Woman cites civic woes, Ajit Pawar asks 'who Parrikar'

PUNE, 14 SEPT

Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar was left flustered during a visit to Pune on Saturday when he appeared unaware of former Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar. Pawar met residents in Keshav Nagar, Hadapsar, to hear complaints about traffic congestion and other civic issues. Pawar assured that efforts were underway to address the problems. A woman urged him to take a cue from Parrikar and make surprise visits to monitor traffic personally. Pawar asked, "Who Parrikar?" She said she meant the late BJP leader from Goa. Parrikar, an IIT graduate, served as Goa CM three times and Defence Minister (2014–17), and was known for his hands-on approach.—*PTI*

Teenager injured in landmine explosion in J&K

SRINAGAR, 14 SEPT

A teenager has sustained injuries in a landmine explosion near an Army installation in Anantnag district of Jammu and Kashmir. The incident occurred on Sunday when 17-year-old Shahid Yousuf was in the vicinity of the ammunition depot at Khundru. According to officials, the landmine, which was planted for the security of the depot, detonated as he was passing through the area. Yousuf was promptly taken to a hospital by local residents for medical treatment. He is bring monitpred by the doctors there. The authorities are currently investigating the circumstances that had led to the blast, with officials stating, "It is yet to be ascertained whether he stepped on the landmine or not." The police are investigating the matter and said things will be clear once the prove is over.—*PTI*

Pro-Bengali group rallies to assert Bengali Asmita

KOLKATA, 14 SEPT

A pro-Bengali group, Bangla Pokkho, held a march in Kolkata on Sunday to promote 'Bengali Asmita' (self-pride) and accused the BJP government at the Centre of attempting to impose linguistic imperialism. The protest commenced at Jadavpur Sulekha and concluded at Gariahat crossing, with demonstrators brandishing placards advocating for the Bengali language. General Secretary Garga Chatterjee stated, "All union government and PSU exams, notices, websites, and services already available in Hindi must also be accessible in all scheduled languages of the Constitution of India." Chatterjee and leader Kaushik Maity stressed, "We are against any imposition of Hindi and any attempts to marginalise Bengali and other regional languages across India." —*PTI*

PM launches Rs 12 cr projects in Assam

Modi to launch projects worth Rs 36,000 cr in Bihar on 15 Sept, attend conference in WB

NUMALIGARH, 14 SEPT

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated a Rs 5,000-crore bamboo-based ethanol plant at Numaligarh in Assam's Golaghat district.

He also laid the foundation stone for the Rs 7,230-crore Petro Fluidised Catalytic Cracker Unit at the Numaligarh Refinery here.

It will source 5 lakh tonnes of green bamboo from four northeastern states, benefitting over 50,000 people directly and indirectly.

Modi also laid the foundation stones for health and infrastructure projects worth Rs 6,300 crore at Mangaldoi in Darrang district.

He also launched the construction of Darrang Medical College and Hospital, along with a nursing college and a GNM school.

The combined investment in these healthcare projects is worth Rs 570 crore.

Modi also laid the foundation stones for the Narengi-Kuruwa bridge and the Guwahati Ring Road project, connecting Kamrup and Darrang districts in Assam and Ri Bhoi in Meghalaya.

The cost for the Ring Road project is estimated to be Rs 4,530 crore.

Modi had arrived in Assam on Saturday evening and attended Bharat Ratna awardee Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary celebrations.

Meanwhile, Modi will visit Purnea district in poll-bound Bihar on Monday to address a rally and launch development projects worth Rs 36,000 crore.

He will also inaugurate a newly developed airport terminal and the National Makhana Board, the setting up of which was announced in the Union budget earlier this year.

The BJP-led NDA, which hopes to retain power in the state, believes that the PM has been giving top priority to Bihar.

Elaborate security measures are in place in the district, where plying of vehicles on national and state highways will also remain suspended for 24 hours, beginning midnight Sunday.

Meanwhile, the leader of the opposition in the assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, conducted a "surprise inspection" of the government medical college and hospital (GMCH) at Purnea. He urged Modi to visit the hospital that lacks basic amenities.

On the other hand, Modi arrived in Kolkata on Sunday evening to inaugurate the 16th Combined Commanders' Conference on Monday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will also attend the conference. —*PTI*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, state BJP President Dilip Saikia during inauguration of development works in Darrang in Assam **PHOTO: PTI**

> **The BJP will not allow infiltrators to grab land, insult women and girls, and conspire to change demography, which is a threat to national security**
>
> -Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

> **'Mukabla ho jai' in protecting Assam from infiltrators who are protected by certain sections of the society, and I challenge them as the BJP will not allow this**
>
> -Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

'Respect all languages, including Hindi'

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday extended Hindi Diwas greetings, and asked everyone to respect all Indian languages, including Hindi.

"Our country is fundamentally a language-oriented nation. Our languages have been a powerful medium for carrying forward culture, history, traditions, knowledge, science, philosophy, and spirituality from generation to generation," he said in a message on the occasion of Hindi Diwas. "On this occasion of Hindi Diwas, let us respect all Indian languages, including Hindi, and move forward towards a self-reliant, self-confident and developed India."

Earlier, while addressing the 5th Akhil Bharatiya Rajbhasha Sammelan he said that the Hindi Shabd Sindhu, which started with 51,000 words, has now crossed 7 lakh words, and by 2029, it will become the largest dictionary among all languages in the world, Shah said.

"I assure you that by 2029, this Hindi Shabd Sindu will become the largest dictionary among all languages of the world. Through this dictionary, we have also made Hindi flexible. Many Hindi scholars insist that Hindi should be Sanskrit-rich. No one has any objection to this. But the empty space has to be filled with Indian languages. Only then will Hindi feel familiar to all the people of India.

Hindi can be made a spoken language only when it becomes flexible," he said, asserting its importance and the need to promote it. —*PTI*

Home Minister Amit Shah, Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Pateli in Ahmedabad on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

> **The Hindi language, filled with simplicity, ease and gracefulness, has united the country. Its increasing global prominence is a testimony of the strength of India's unity**
>
> -Himanta Biswa Sarma, Assam Chief Minister

> **Hindi has become a medium for us that connects different languages and cultures, making communication seamless. Let us make Hindi our language**
>
> -Pema Khandu, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister

> **We took measures for the development of Hindi-speaking people West Bengal. In areas where over 10 per cent Hindi speakers, provisions were made to use Hindi as an official language**
>
> -Mamata Banerjee, West Bengal Chief Minister

Huge turnout at meeting disturbs rivals: TVK Chief

CHENNAI, 14 SEPT

Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) leader Vijay Thalapathy has stated that the overwhelming turnout and affection shown by the public during his initial state-wide political tour in Tiruchirappalli will unsettle his political opponents.

In response to Chief Minister MK Stalin's veiled remarks, Vijay questioned if it wasn't the tradition of Tamils to welcome newcomers. He noted that criticisms from various political parties alleging that he would not interact with the public have turned into laments following the substantial crowd at his rallies on 13 September.

Vijay implied that the DMK, which had historically shown animosity towards AIADMK founder MG Ramachandran, would not be able to change its legacy. He expressed confidence that his party, a newcomer, would achieve victory in the upcoming 2026 Assembly elections, drawing parallels to the electoral successes of 1967 and 1977.

Reiterating his concerns about the DMK's ties with the BJP, Vijay stated, "We will go on to fight the 2026 Assembly polls with determination." He would visit Perambalur. —*PTI*

● In response to Chief Minister MK Stalin's veiled remarks, Vijay questioned if it wasn't the tradition of Tamils to welcome newcomers.

EC must probe Rahul's charges: Ex-CEC Quraishi

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Coming down hard on the Election Commission (EC) for its response on "vote theft" allegations, former chief election commissioner SY Quraishi on Sunday said the poll body should have ordered a probe into Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi's charges instead of "shouting" at him in a language that was "objectionable and offensive".

Quraishi said much of the terms used by Gandhi while making the allegations such as likening them to a "hydrogen bomb" were "political rhetoric" but asserted that the complaints need to be investigated in detail.

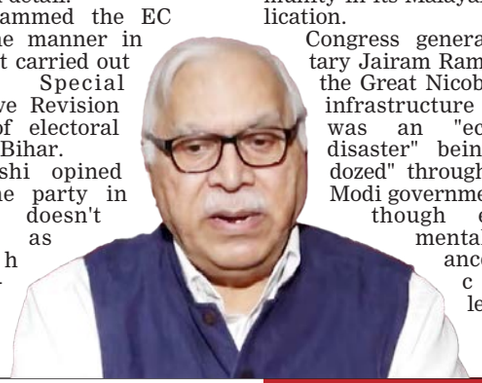
He slammed the EC over the manner in which it carried out the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Quraishi opined that the party in power doesn't need as much pampering as the opposition does because the latter is out of power.

Meanwhile, the Congress accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh of displaying an "anti-Christian stance" following an article critical of the minority community in its Malayalam publication.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said the Great Nicobar mega infrastructure project was an "ecological disaster" being "bulldozed" through by the Modi government, even though environmental clearances were challenged. —*PTI*

● Quraishi said much of the terms used by Gandhi while making the allegations such as likening them to a "hydrogen bomb" were "political rhetoric" but asserted that the complaints must be probed.



Oppn parties hit the streets over India-Pakistan match

MUMBAI, 14 SEPT

Opposition parties on Sunday staged protests across the country to oppose the India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match in Dubai, urging people to boycott the contest with a nation that sponsors terror.

Shiv Sena (UBT) organised protests in Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Jammu, while Aam Aadmi Party members staged a demonstration in Delhi.

In the south, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi slammed the Centre, asking whether the money earned through the match was more than the value of the lives of those killed in Pahalgam.

Traditional rivals India and Pakistan are facing off, in the first match between the two sides since India launched 'Operation Sindoor' in May to hit terror bases in Pakistan-controlled territories following the Pahalgam terror attack.

The Indian government has allowed the national team to play against Pakistan at multi-national events, including the Asia Cup, but has barred any bilateral engagement across sports.

Sena (UBT) secretary and Mumbai Cricket Association member Milind Narvekar claimed the decision over the match was taken by keeping Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the dark.

The party also protested in Pune, Thane and other places in the state.

Pune resident Asavari Jagdale, whose father Santosh Jagdale was among those killed in the Pahalgam attack, also called for the boycott of the match.

"I feel deep shame for those who are ready to play, those who organise the game, and those who will cheer this evening, forgetting the Pahalgam attack, the sacrifices of soldiers, and countless such attacks over the years," she said.

Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde said, "There are people who display fake patriotism." —*PTI*

AAP workers break a television set during a protest against the India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match in New Delhi on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

VICTIM'S KIN ASKS FOR INDIA-PAK MATCH'S BOYCOTT

PUNE, 14 SEPT

Asavari Jagdale, whose father Santosh was among the 26 victims of the Pahalgam terror attack, has called for the boycott of the upcoming India-Pakistan Asia Cup cricket match to be held in Dubai on Sunday. This match, set for Sunday, marks the first encounter between the two nations since a spike in border conflict after India's military strikes against terror infrastructure in Pakistan following the 22 April attack.

Jagdale expressed her dismay over the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) proceeding with the match, stating, "Just over five months ago, the Pahalgam attack claimed 26 lives. Allowing the match would be playing with the emotions of the victims' families." She urged people to refrain from watching the match, asserting it would indirectly support a nation "that has blood on its hands

Asaduddin Owaisi, president of AIMIM questioned the value of the lives lost compared to the financial gains from the cricket match. —*PTI*

GUARDIAN OF LAW

Manipur HC gets new Chief Justice

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Justice M Sundar of the Madras High Court has been elevated as the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court, the law ministry said on Sunday.

Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal made the announcement.

"In exercise of the power conferred by the Constitution of India, the President of India, after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, is pleased to appoint Shri Justice M. Sundar, Judge, Madras High Court as Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur with effect from the date he assumes charge of the office," Mr. Meghwal said in a post on X.

In a statement, the ministry said justice Sundar will assume charge following the retirement of incumbent Chief Justice Kempaiah Somashekar on Sunday.

High court judges demit office on attaining the age of 62 years, while Supreme Court judges retire at 65.

Union Law and Justice Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal made the announcement about Justice M Sundar being elevated as the Chief Justice of Manipur on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

● Born on 19 July, 1966, in Chennai, Justice Sundar graduated from Madras Law College as part of the first batch of the five-year integrated law course and enrolled as an advocate in 1989.

Born on 19 July, 1966, in Chennai, Justice Sundar graduated from Madras Law College as part of the first batch of the five-year integrated law course and enrolled as an advocate in 1989. He practiced in the Madras High Court and served as standing counsel for the Tamil Nadu Water Supply and Drainage (TWAD) Board between 2003 and 2006.

The Supreme Court collegium had on 11 September recommended the names of three judges for elevation as chief justices of different high courts.

The collegium recommended names of Karnataka High Court's Justice Pavankumar B Bajanthri as Chief Justice of Patna HC (at present acting CJ of Patna HC), Calcutta High Court's Justice Soumen Sen as Chief Justice of Meghalaya, and Madras High Court's Justice Sundar as Chief Justice of Manipur High Court. —*Agencies*

Internet servises were restricted following violents protests in Doda over arrest of AAP MLA **PHOTO: PTI**

Internet services restored in J&K's Doda

DODA/JAMMU, 14 SEPT

Authorities have restored broadband internet services in Doda, Jammu and Kashmir, following nearly a week of restrictions imposed after the detention of AAP MLA Mehraj Malik under the Public Safety Act. Malik was taken into custody on 8 September for allegedly disrupting public order, sparking violent protests that led to prohibitory measures and the suspension of internet services.

Restrictions on movement were relaxed for six hours on Saturday after a meeting between Deputy Inspector General Shridhar Patil, Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, and Senior Superintendent of Police Sandeep Kumar Mehta with civil society representatives. They assured that restrictions would be gradually lifted as the situation stabilised.

At the meeting, local business representatives expressed their concerns, stating, "The general public suffered significant losses recently. We request a phase-wise lifting of restrictions so businesses can resume." The DIG acknowledged the public's role in maintaining order and urged, "The business community must activate CCTV cameras to monitor troublemakers." —*PTI*

SC to hear on CCTVs' absence in police stations

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

The Supreme Court will hear on Monday a suo motu public interest litigation over lack of functional CCTVs in police stations after taking cognisance of a media report. The apex court had ordered installation of CCTV cameras in every police station, at all entry and exit points, main gate, lock-ups, corridors, lobby and reception as also areas outside the lock-up to check human rights abuses. On 4 September the court had directed the registration of the PIL. In December 2020, the top court had directed the Centre to install CCTV cameras and recording equipment at the offices of investigating agencies. CCTV systems must be equipped with night vision. —*PTI*

2L candidates to take WB teacher recruitment tests

KOLKATA, 14 SEPT

About 2.46lakh candidates are set to sit the School Level Selection Test (SLST) on Sunday for recruitment of assistant teachers for Classes 11 and 12 in West Bengal's government-aided schools, officials said. The exam will be held at 478 centres across the state. On 7 September, 3.19 lakh aspirants appeared in the first phase for Classes 9 and 10 at 636 centres. The West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) is conducting the exams after the Supreme Court annulled the "tainted" 2016 recruitment, leading to the dismissal of nearly 26,000 staff. Each question paper carries unique security codes and phones or electronic devices are banned. Candidates must report by 10am. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Actor Ashish Kapoor gets bail in rape case

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

A Delhi court has granted bail to TV actor Ashish Kapoor in a rape case, ruling he cannot be kept in custody merely because police feared he might commit a similar offence. Additional Sessions Judge Bhupinder Singh noted Kapoor, a permanent Delhi resident with no prior criminal record, is no longer required for investigation. Kapoor was arrested on 2 September in connection with an alleged incident on 9 August. The two co-accused had been granted bail and that the police had delayed summoning Kapoor, taking no immediate action on the complainant being approached by people linked to him. The court said conditions on bail could safeguard the complainant. —*PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

14 monkey carcasses found; poisoning doubted

BARABANKI, 14 SEPT

The discovery of 14 monkeys, suspected to have been poisoned, has raised alarm in Amserua village in Uttar Pradesh's Barabanki district. Locals reported that the monkeys likely did not originate from the area, leading officials to suspect they may have been transported elsewhere and poisoned. Eight male and six female monkeys have been found dead. A post-mortem examination by a panel of three doctors will be conducted, with initial observations suggesting poisoning as the cause of death. The forest department has filed an FIR against unknown individuals. Further charges could arise following the autopsy results, as investigations continue —*PTI*

Scribe Siddique Kappan, 10 others booked in Kerala

They were protesting the UAPA law and arrest of a journalist

KOCHI, 14 SEPT

Police have registered a case against journalist Siddique Kappan and 10 others in connection with a solidarity event held in Kochi in Kerala, condemning the arrest of journalist Rejaz M Sheeba Sydeek.

The event was organised by human rights organisations at Vanchi Square near the Kerala High Court junction on 13 September. Activists of the Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI) and Welfare Party also took part.

Kerala-based journalist Sydeek was arrested in Nagpur for alleging criticising Operation Sindoor.

According to the FIR, along with 11 accused, around 30 people assembled at Vanchi Square, shouted slogans against the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and used microphones and loudspeakers without permission, thereby obstructing pedestrian movement.

The accused shouted slogans at the protest site and used microphones and loudspeakers without permission, obstructing public movement ***PHOTO: PTI***

When police reached the spot, most of the participants dispersed, while two of them clashed with officers and were taken into custody. They were shifted to the Ernakulam Central Police Station and later released on bail.

Those named as accused in the FIR include Neeharika Pradaush, Siddique Kappan, Pramod Puzhangara, Ambika, C P Rasheed, Sajid Khalid, Baburaj Bhagavathy, V M Faisal, Mrudhula Bhavani, Hari, and Shaneer.

The case has been registered under Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita sections 189(2), 190, and 285, along with sections 118(e) and 117(e) of the Kerala Police Act.

Kappan was earlier arrested in Uttar Pradesh in 2020 while on his way to cover the death of a Dalit woman in Hathras. He was later charged under sections of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) and released on bail after a two-year-long legal battle.

Meanwhile, the BJP's Ernakulam district committee lodged a complaint with the police regarding the event, alleging that Kappan's participation violated the bail conditions set by the Supreme Court. —*PTI*

RIVERS IN SPATE

Floods, landslides hit Manipur

IMPHAL, 14 SEPT

Flash floods and landslides have been reported in various parts of Manipur following torrential rain during the last 24 hours.

Several areas in Yaingangpokpi, Santikhon gbal and Sabungkhok Khunou in Imphal East, and Kakwa and Sagolband in Imphal West were inundated due to the downpour,

Landslides were reported from Awangkhul in Noney district as well as from Senapati and Kamjong.

The water level of major rivers, including Imphal river, Nambul and Iril, rose significantly, but are yet to reach the danger mark.

The Water Resources Department is closely monitoring the situation.

Most parts of the northeastern state have recorded moderate to heavy rainfall in the past 24 hours, with forecasts of more downpour on Sunday, he added.

Meanwhile, a panchayat president was killed in a landslide, triggered by incessant rain, in Sikkim's Gyalshing district.

The incident occurred on 13 September when a massive landslide buried Rajen Gurung, the president of the Sardung Lungjik Gram Panchayat unit, near his residence.

Chief Minister PS Tamang expressed his grief of Gurung, who had succumbed to his injuries.

The CM said he, on behalf of the state government and the people of Sikkim, stands in solidarity with the grieving family in this hour of irreparable loss.

Tamang said it was also reassuring to note that the district administration and authorities concerned have promptly responded to the incident and are extending all necessary support to the family members and the affected area. He directed official to remain vigilant. —*PTI*

Samajwadi Party leader and Lok Sabha member Dimple Yadav was among the 150 passengers on board the flight ***PHOTO: PTI***

Delhi-bound IndiGo plane aborts take-off

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

A Delhi-bound IndiGo aircraft, carrying over 150 people, aborted take-off at the Lucknow airport due to a technical issue on 13 September.

Samajwadi Party leader and Lok Sabha member Dimple Yadav was among the people on board the flight.

An IndiGo aircraft operating the flight 6E2111 from Lucknow to Delhi aborted take-off after the operating crew noticed a technical issues when the aircraft was on the runway before take-off. The pilots aborted the take-off and returned the plane to the bay as a precautionary measure.

Eyewitnesses said that passengers and crew were tensed as the aircraft gained speed before coming to a sudden halt. However, passengers disembarked safely, and no injuries were reported.

An alternative aircraft was arranged for the stranded passengers. This comes just a week after another IndiGo flight, operating from Kochi to Abu Dhabi, had to return shortly after take-off due to a mid-air technical snag.

"We regret the inconvenience caused to our customers and made all possible efforts to minimise it, including offering them meals and refreshments. At IndiGo, we remain committed to ensure the maimum safety and security of our customers and crew," an IndiGo spokesperson said. —*Agencies*

ICMR to monitor waste water in 50 cities

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) will expand its surveillance of wastewater to 50 cities over the next year to monitor community pathogens as part of an early warning system.

Currently operating in five cities, this initiative is supported by the Tata Institute of Genetics and Society and other research bodies. ICMR director general Rajiv Bahl stated, "Surveillance will be intensified to detect any rise in virus load in the community," with ongoing monitoring of COVID-19 and polio.

The expanded programme will also include the tracking of both human and animal-origin pathogens.

The ICMR is committed to establishing an environmental surveillance framework for many viruses, including Avian Influenza. —*PTI*

Smoke billows after a fire broke out at a factory at Panoli GIDC area of Bharuch in Gujarat on Sunday ***PHOTO: PTI***

2 workers charred to death in fire at fertiliser plant in Gujarat

MEHSANA, 14 SEPT

Two workers were charred to death and as many others suffered burn injuries after a fire broke out at a fertiliser plant in Gujarat's Mehsana district early on Sunday.

The blaze erupted at the unit located near Sametra village at around 3 am.

Two persons working at the plant during night shift were charred to death. Two others were injured and rushed to a nearby hospital for treatment.

- Two persons working at the plant during night shift were charred to death. Two others were injured and rushed to a hospital for teatment.

The exact cause of the fire was not yet clear, an official said.

A team of the fire brigade personnel rushed to the spot after being informed about the incident. They took about an hour to control the blaze, a Mehsana fire department official said.

The charred bodies of two workers were recovered after the fire was brought under control. There were six workers at the plant when the incident occurred. The deceased Fulchand and Manish hailed from Maharashtra and Bihar respectively. —*PTI*

Maharashtra witnesses 67 cases of dog bites in a day

THANE, 14 SEPT

As many as 67 cases of stray dog bites have been reported in a single day from Kalyan and Dombivli civic limits in Maharashtra's Thane district, sparking concern among residents.

For the past few weeks, the incidents of dog bites were occurring sporadically in the region, averaging a few cases per day.

However, on 13 September, 67 such cases occurred in Kalyan and Dombivli towns, the local civic body's medical officer of health Deepa Shukla.

The sudden spike led to overcrowding at civic and private hospitals, where the victims sought treatment.

The incidents were largely due to the stray dog menace within the Kalyan Dombivli Municipal Corporation (KDMC) limits.

All patients have been given appropriate treatment, including anti-rabies vaccines.

The KDMC has been regularly carrying out sterilisation drives to control the stray dog population. A new centre for dogs will be established soon. Local residents have demanded urgent and effective measures to ensure public safety. —*PTI*

RS 5L BOUNTY

Maoist killed in gunfight in Jharkhand

MEDININAGAR, 14 SEPT

A Maoist was killed in a gunfight with security forces in Palamu district in Jharkhand on Sunday morning.

An encounter broke out in a forest area on the border of Manatu and Tarhasi police stations' jurisdiction this morning, and after the operation, the body of a red rebel and a rifle were recovered from there, Jharkhand Police IG (operations) and spokesperson Michael Raj S said.

The identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained, the police officer said, adding that it appears to be the body of Mukhdev Yadav, a self-styled commander of Maoist splinter group Tritiya Sammelan Prastuti Committee.

Security personnel arrive at the site where a Maoist was killed during a gunfight in Jharkhand's Palamu district on Sunday ***PHOTO: PTI***

Yadav had a Rs 5 lakh bounty on his head. He was also involved in the murder of two security personnel in Palamu on 4 September, the police said. —*PTI*

Woman jumps to death with special child in Noida

NOIDA, 14 SEPT

A woman and her specially-abled minor son have died by suicide by jumping from the13th floor of the Ace City Society in Greater Noida in Uttar Pradesh.

The incident occurred around 10 am on 13 September when residents of the apartment block heard a loud scream. They rushed outside to find the victims, Sakshi Chawla, 37 and her son, 11 lying in a pool of blood.

The police arrived after they were informed by the residents. The bodies of the deceased were sent to a hospital for postmortem.

The police recovered a suicide note inside the victims; apartment, which was addressed to Sakshi's husband, Darpan Chawla.

"We are leaving this world Sorry. We don't want to trouble you anymore. Don't let our presence ruin your life. Nobody is responsible for our death," the suicide note read.

Police officials said that the son had been mentally ill for a long time and was dependent on medication. Despite treatment with several doctors and prayers at gurudwaras, his condition did not show much improvement.

Neighbours said Sakshi was often worried and complained that her life had become very difficult.

On Saturday morning, Darpan, a chartered accountant, asked Sakshi to give their son his medicine. After administering it, she went to the balcony. Moments later, both plunged to their death.

ADCP Central Noida Shavya Goel said, "The bodies have been sent for postmortem and further investigation is underway." —*PTI*

Cheetah project to flood 596ha land

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

An Environment Ministry panel has instructed Madhya Pradesh's Water Resources Department to consult the Cheetah Steering Committee regarding an irrigation project that will inundate 596 hectares of forest land.

The Sonpura Major Micro Irrigation Project, aimed at irrigating 19,410 hectares across Shivpuri and Guna districts, necessitates over 1,000 hectares of land, including substantial forest area.

The Expert Appraisal Committee highlighted the need to examine nearby wildlife corridors and devise a specific wildlife conservation plan due to potential ecological impacts. The project aims to enhance irrigation in drought-prone areas, but there was need for comprehensive assessments on social and ecological implications. —*PTI*

ANOTHER KG KAR HORROR

KG Kar medico's beau held for her death

KOLKATA, 14 SEPT

The boyfriend of a final-year female student of RG Kar medical college in Kolkata, who died under mysterious circumstances in a hospital in West Bengal's Malda, was arrested on Sunday and remanded to six-day police custody.

The family of the deceased **Anindita Soren** had earlier lodged a police complaint, accusing her boyfriend, **Ujjwal Soren** a junior doctor at Malda Medical College, of being responsible for her death.

Anindita's mother Alpana Tudu alleged that Ujjwal had poisoned her daughter for insisting on an official registration of their marriage.

"When we saw her at the hospital CCU, she was frothing from her mouth," Tudu claimed.

Alpana Tudu, mother of of the victim Anindita Soren (pic) claimed that the accused, Ujjwal Soren poisoned her to death ***PHOTO:X***

The couple had got married secretly at a temple in Puri.

However, he later backed out of registering the marriage formally, leading to frequent arguments.

Anindita, a resident of Balurghat in Dakshin Dinajpur, had met Ujjwal on social media and at various medical events, and their friendship developed into a romantic relationship.

The grief-stricken mother said, "Yesterday, we got a phone call from him that our daughter had fallen seriously ill and was taken to Malda hospital. Today we were informed that she died. Our daughter visited our Balurghat residence last Sunday and left for Kolkata the next day. How come she landed up in Malda subsequently and fell ill? We want police to interrogate him," Tudu said.

Ujjwal, who was arrested from his rented house in Englishbazar town, Malda, was being interrogated.

Ujjwal was remanded to six days' police custody. —*PTI*

FESTIVE TOUCH

An artisan decorates a traditional earthen clay pot ahead of the upcoming Navratri festival, in Surat, Gujarat, on Sunday. The annual Hindu festival honouring Goddess Durga is from 22 September to 2 October
PHOTO: PTI

Terrorists prefer bunker life over safehouses

In a change of tactics, terror outfits in Jammu and Kashmir are now constructing elaborately-designed underground bunkers deep inside thick forests and elevated ridges instead of taking shelter in local houses, officials said on Sunday.

This tactical shift, fuelled by eroding local support, presents a new challenge to the Army and other security forces.

This came to the fore last week during an encounter in the higher reaches of Kulgam district, where two terrorists were killed. As the operation progressed, security forces found a secret trench with rations, miniature gas stoves, and pressure cookers, as well as weapons and ammunition.

One senior security officer, requesting anonymity, said the trend has become widespread in the Kulgam and Shopian districts, as well as south of Pir Panjal in Jammu region where thick forests provide a perfect camouflage for terrorists.

Though security personnel have managed to trace a few of these new hideouts, officials are becoming increasingly worried, especially after getting intelligence inputs that terrorists have been asked to stay in higher and middle of ridges and carry out attacks when directed from across the border.

"It's not the number of kills," said one official, "It's a troubling trend that indicates terrorists are now well-established inside these underground bunkers."

According to retired Lt Gen D S Hooda, who led the successful 2016 surgical strikes, these high-altitude trenches and bunkers are reminiscent of tactics used by terrorists in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Lt Gen Hooda, who commanded the strategic Northern Command, also flagged a major issue of absence of human intelligence now, which was one of the main assets in previous counter-terrorism operations.

Still, he is convinced that the Army will "re-evaluate its strategy" to address the new challenge.

Officials are becoming increasingly worried, especially after getting intelligence inputs that terrorists have been asked to stay in higher and middle of ridges and carry out attacks ***PHOTO: PTI***

Retired Director General of Puducherry Police, B Srinivas, who spent three decades with the Jammu and Kashmir Police, echoed this assessment and said terrorists are being forced to build these bunkers because they can no longer rely on shelters in towns and villages.

With the local people increasingly turning their back on their separatist ideology, infiltrating terrorists are now utilising these secret trenches to evade detection by locals, who they now presume to be informers.

This would be a repetition of what was witnessed in 'Operation Sarp Vinash' back in 2003, when forces were able to target concealed terror camps in the Poonch area.

To counter this new challenge, security agencies are planning to employ technology to counter the threat and are seeking to deploy ground-penetrating radar (GPR)-equipped drones and seismic sensors for deployment during anti-terror operations.

Drones can reach the hard-to-access areas, whereas GPR and seismic sensors can identify underground voids and structural changes in the earth, thus making it possible to identify the location of such underground bunkers.

The immediate objective of the security grid becomes obvious, which is to improve intelligence in these forest belts and employ these fresh instruments to neutralise the remaining terrorists.

In the past, the Army faced the menace of underground bunkers and man-made cavities but that was in the residential areas, mainly in Pulwama, Kulgam and Shopian, in 2020-22.

Giving examples, the officials said there was a hideout in the middle of Rambi Ara, known for its fluctuating water levels and often affected by flash floods. The terrorists were hiding inside an iron bunker made in the middle of it. The troops saw an empty oil barrel being used by the terrorists to enter the bunker.

During that period, reports of more cavities in the traditional Kashmiri households and underground bunkers started surfacing.

Covered by dense apple trees and situated at a height, the Army found another underground bunker in Bandpoh where terrorists managed to create an underground room.

The bunker finally lay exposed after troops noticed a polythene sheet covering nothing and the earth nearby filled recently.

Another interesting hide and seek strategy was witnessed at Labipora in Shopian where terrorists covered an iron box on the banks of a river and kept a small pipe for breathing while hiding underground. *—PTI*

SALAR سالار

All about aftermath of Charlie Kirk's murder

Authorities are still trying to learn more about what motivated the fatal shooting of Charlie Kirk at a college in Utah, as the conservative activist's family plans a memorial next week to his life and legacy.

Tyler James Robinson, 22, of Washington, Utah, was arrested on suspicion of aggravated murder and other felony offences. Prosecutors are drawing up formal charges that could be filed early next week, when he will make his first court appearance.

Investigators have spoken to Robinson's relatives and carried out a search warrant at his family's home in Washington, about 390 kilometres southwest of Utah Valley University, where the shooting took place.

Here are things to know about the killing:

What do we know about motive?

Authorities have not provided many details about why they think Robinson attacked Kirk.

Utah Governor Spencer Cox said family members told authorities that Robinson "had become more political in recent years." They recounted to authorities a dinner table conversation in which he mentioned Kirk's upcoming visit to Utah Valley University and they discussed whether the activist was spreading hate.

State records show Robinson is registered to vote but not affiliated with a political party and is listed as inactive, meaning he did not vote in the two most recent general elections. His parents are registered Republicans.

Ammunition found with the weapon used to kill Kirk was engraved with taunting, anti-fascist and meme-culture messages. One bullet casing had the message, "Hey, fascist! Catch!" Cox said.

What do we know about Robinson?

He grew up around St. George, in the southwestern corner of Utah between Las Vegas and natural landmarks including Bryce Canyon and Zion National Parks.

Robinson became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, known widely as the Mormon church, at a young age, church spokesperson Doug Andersen said.

Robinson has two younger brothers, and his parents have been married for about 25 years, according to social media posts. Online activity by Robinson's mother reflects an active family that took vacations to Disneyland, Hawaii, the Caribbean and Alaska.

Like many in that part of Utah, they frequently spent time outdoors — boating, fishing, riding ATVs, zip-lining and target shooting. A 2017 post shows the family visiting a military facility and posing with assault rifles. A young Robinson is seen smiling as he grips the handles of a .50-caliber heavy machine gun.

A high school honour roll student who scored in the 99th percentile nationally on standardised tests, he was admitted to Utah State University in 2021 on a prestigious academic scholarship, according to a video of him reading his acceptance letter that was posted to a family member's social media account.

But he attended for only one semester, according to a university spokesperson. He is currently enrolled as a third-year student in the electrical apprenticeship programme at Dixie Technical College in St. George.

What has the fallout from the assassination been?

It prompted calls for greater civility in the country's political discourse, especially on social media. But many people have made comments about Kirk and the shooting that brought consequences, including firings.

MSNBC political analyst Matthew Dowd lost his job shortly after on-air comments about Kirk, one of the first of many figures to experience similar fallout.

Office Depot said Friday that it fired a worker at a Michigan store who was seen on video refusing to print flyers for a Kirk vigil and calling them "propaganda."

Several Delta Air Lines employees were also suspended after social media posts that "went well beyond healthy, respectful debate," CEO Ed Bastian said in a message to the company.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' education commissioner warned teachers in the state that making "disgusting" statements about Kirk's assassination could draw sanctions, including the suspension or revocation of their teaching licenses.

A conservative internet personality who is embedded with immigration agents in Chicago filmed a video outside Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker's private home in which he urged viewers to "take action" after Kirk's assassination. Pritzker's office said his security has been increased in recent days.

Memorial to be held in Arizona

Turning Point USA, Kirk's conservative organisation, will hold a memorial for him September 21 at State Farm Stadium outside Phoenix, where the Arizona Cardinals play.

Kirk's casket arrived Thursday in his home state aboard Air Force Two, accompanied by Vice President JD Vance.

His widow, Erika Kirk, vowed to continue his campus tour and his radio and podcast shows.

"To everyone listening tonight across America, the movement my husband built will not die," she said Friday in a livestreamed video. "It won't. I refuse to let that happen."

Flowers, US flags and handwritten messages were left at a makeshift memorial for Kirk at Utah Valley University's main entrance. The school has said there will be increased security when classes resume 17 September. *—PTI*

Kirk was killed on Wednesday during an outdoor debate event on Utah varsity campus ***PHOTO: PTI***

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Kerala's 'Green Army' changing waste forever, one door at a time

In Kerala, known for its high literacy rate and scenic backwaters, an unlikely force has taken centre stage in the battle against waste--women in green uniforms, knocking on doors with sacks and ledgers in hand.

They are the Haritha Karma Sena - women-led squads who collect and sort rubbish at household level. What started as a local experiment in composting has now grown into a full ecosystem of solid waste management.

The state government says Kerala no longer depends on landfills or centralised dumps; instead, it manages its waste at source, creating jobs and a cleaner environment along the way.

The approach is decentralised, and crucially, it is monitored digitally.

Beyond household waste, Kerala has also begun to set up faecal sludge treatment plants under the national AMRUT programme - a move aimed at tackling the more intractable problem of liquid and sanitary waste.

Talking about the success of the solid waste management initiative, Kerala Local Self-Government Minister M B Rajesh said, "We have achieved self-sufficiency in solid waste management... liquid will take more time, but we are confident about achieving it."

The minister emphasised that strict enforcement and active public participation were crucial in reaching the milestone.

"We amended our Panchayat Raj Act and Municipality Act to give local bodies teeth to penalise offenders. So, those who don't hand over their non-bio waste will not get any services from local bodies, and those who are not ready to pay the user fee will have their user fee charged with the property tax, along with a fine," Rajesh said.

"Our door-to-door waste collection has doubled in the last two years, but still, civic sense has not improved correspondingly. People still throw away (waste)... so we have created facilities now, the focus will be on educating people," he added.

In the last five months, Rajesh said, the government has collected Rs 9.55 crore in fines for littering.

Though, at the heart of the decentralised system is the Haritha Karma Sena -- a network of more than 37,000 trained women workers, mostly from the Kudambashree mission, the minister said.

"The Haritha Karma Sena is a novel initiative. They work at the grassroots level, collecting non-bio waste from door to door. In 2024-2025, they collected 1.52 lakh tonne of non-bio waste... 95 per cent of houses and shops are covered by them," Rajesh told reporters during an interaction here.

At the heart of the decentralised system is the Haritha Karma Sena -- a network of more than 37,000 trained women workers, mostly from the Kudambashree mission ***PHOTO: PTI***

According to the officials, these "green soldiers" collect, segregate and transfer waste from households and institutions to local collection facilities.

They are not just sanitation workers, but also entrepreneurs, earning from user fees, compost sales and recycling contracts.

Complementing the sena's work is the Clean Kerala Company Ltd, which acts as an aggregator, transferring non-biodegradable waste to recycling agencies and cement factories for use as Refuse-Derived Fuel (RDF), officials said.

- In Kerala, known for its high literacy rate and scenic backwaters, an unlikely force has taken centre stage in the battle against waste--women in green uniforms, knocking on doors with sacks and ledgers in hand.

While solid waste systems are maturing, liquid and sanitary waste remain a challenge.

"We are going to achieve a total treatment facility for sanitary waste. Within the next four months, four regional plants will be set up and 120 tonne of sanitary waste can be treated and processed," Rajesh said.

"It is estimated that 100 tonne of waste is generated every day, but the plants will be able to handle 120 tonne," he added.

Furthermore, Kerala's waste management strategy insists that biodegradable waste must be processed as close to the source as possible, like at homes, institutions, or community centres, with the state promoting bio-bins, compost pits, ring composts, and community facilities like biogas plants.

As of June 2025, more than 25 lakh households have installed source-level devices, while 271 community biogas plants and 1,303 composting facilities treat organic waste daily.

"Also, we are promoting source-level treatment of bio waste and have announced a five per cent tax exemption to all households that have source-level treatment at home," Rajesh said.

Talking about the 2023 Kochi dump yard blaze, Rajesh said in the aftermath of the incident, it was decided to clear all the garbage from the site and claimed that the government was just a month away from achieving its goal.

"We announced in the assembly that we will convert this (blaze) into an opportunity and that area (dump site) will be converted into a garden--a modern waste management destination. Now, we can very proudly claim that 90 per cent of that dumpsite has been cleared.

"Out of 9 lakh metric tonne, more than 8 lakh metric tonne of waste have been cleared... Within one month, the remaining waste will be cleared," he added. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Singer Akon's wife Tomeka Thiam files for divorce

LOS ANGELES, 14 SEPT

Tomeka Thiam, the wife of singer-rapper Akon, has filed for divorce just days before their 29th wedding anniversary. According to PEOPLE, Thiam cited irreconcilable differences in her filing. The couple, who share a 17-year-old child named Journey, is expected to have joint custody, although Thiam is requesting physical custody while allowing Akon visitation rights. She has also requested spousal support, while asking that Akon not receive the same. In a previous interview on "The Zeze Mills Show," Akon expressed his views on polygamy, stating, "(Polygamy is) part of our culture. Absolutely... We didn't go outside of our African culture when we got to the Western world." The couple married on 15 September, 1996. *—PTI*

Texas bans Sharia Law Enforcement in state

HOUSTON, 14 SEPT

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has announced a ban on the enforcement of Islamic Sharia law in the state and has called on residents to report any attempts to impose "Sharia compliance" on businesses or individuals. His comments came after a video surfaced showing a Muslim cleric urging shopkeepers in Houston to avoid selling alcohol, pork, or lottery tickets, which Abbott labelled as harassment. "I signed laws that BAN Sharia Law and Sharia Compounds in Texas," he stated on X. Although Texas lacks a formal "Sharia ban," the 2017 American Laws for American Courts bill prevents conflicts between foreign religious codes and US laws. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FB

Ex envoy Saran appointed chair of key UN body

NEW YORK, 14 SEP

Former diplomat Preeti Saran has been elected as the chair of the prestigious UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), in recognition of her rich experience in handling complex multilateral issues. The CESCR is a key body of the United Nations that has been tasked with overseeing the implementation of international covenants on economic and social rights by the member nations. In her career with the Indian Foreign Service spread over 36 years, Saran served in various capacities in India as well as in Indian missions in Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas. *—PTI*

10 held at Toronto anti-immigration counter-protest

TORONTO, 14 SEPT

Toronto police arrested ten individuals during an anti-immigration rally at Christie Pits Park on Saturday. Initially, one man was charged with assault around 12.40pm, with further arrests made as tensions escalated between the rally and a counter-demonstration. Organised by the Canada First Patriot Rally, the event aimed to highlight concerns over "mass immigration" and defend Canadian values. However, hundreds participated in the counter-protest, advocating for immigrant rights and community support. Deena Ladd of the Workers' Action Centre, condemned the rally, arguing that immigrants should not be blamed for economic issues like housing shortages and healthcare access. *—ANI*

Nepal PM calls victims 'martyrs', gives Rs10L

Says interim govt doesn't want power, will leave in 6 months

Funerals were conducted in Kathmandu, Nepal on Sunday for several of the demonstrators killed during the 'Gen-Z' protests *PHOTO: PTI*

KATHMANDU, 14 SEPT

After taking charge as Nepal's interim Prime Minister, Sushila Karki announced that those killed during the anti-corruption protest in Nepal would be known as 'Martyrs' and a compensation amount of 1 million Nepali rupees would be given to their families.

She made the announcement in her remarks after assuming charge.

During the press conference, Sushila Karki said that all the deceased of 8 September will be known as 'Martyrs' and be given one million Nepali rupees each.

Expenses of the injured will be borne by the government, and they will also be compensated.

"Transfer of the bodies from Kathmandu to other districts will be facilitated by the government", she said.

Interim PM Karki further highlighted that those involved in acts of vandalism will be investigated, and the government will discuss and work on the reconstruction.

"Personal properties were also burned down. We will not leave them, and the government will work on measures to give them some compensation. It can be through soft loans or any other measures," she said.

Karki underscored that the interim government is not here to "taste the power" and would not stay for more than six months.

Speaking about the protest, she said that the movement was a first of its kind in Nepal. "They are demanding economic equality and the eradication of corruption."

73-year-old former Chief Justice of Nepal took charge as the interim Prime Minister of Nepal on Sunday, becoming the first woman PM of the Himalayan country. *—ANI*

> **China congratulates Madam Sushila Karki on becoming Prime Minister of Nepal's interim government.... China, as always, respects the development path chosen independently by the people of Nepal**
>
> —Chinese Foreign Ministry

> **We look forward to working with the interim government as they prepare for new elections.... We commend President Ramchandra Paudel and youth leaders for their commitment to a democratic solution, even as we continue to mourn with Nepal over its losses**
>
> —Dean R Thompson, US Ambassador to Nepal

The move comes after the assinisation of Conservative activist Charlie Kirk and ahead of the 30 Sept deadline for the temporary budget *PHOTO: X*

WH wants $58M to boost security

WASHINGTON, 14 SEPT

The Trump administration is reportedly sending a $58 million request to Congress to increase security for the executive and judicial branches after the assassination of Conservative activist Charlie Kirk.

A White House sources have said that the extra funds would be directed to the US Marshals Service and would also include enhanced protection for Supreme Court justices.

Punchbowl was first to report the matter.

Additionally, the Trump administration reportedly expressed support for increased funding to protect Congressional lawmakers.

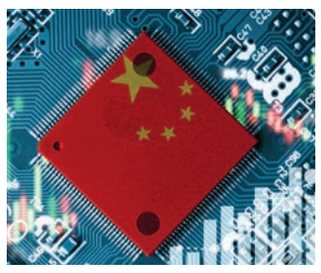
The funds are intended to be added to a temporary budget, which must be approved by 30 Sept, when the current spending law expires.

On 10 Sept, Kirk was killed in University of Utah Valley, during an open debate with students. On 12 Sept, officials apprehend prime suspect Tyler James Robinson.

KASH UNDER THE SCANNER

Meanwhile, FBI Director Kash Patel is under the spotlight for announcing the capture of Kirk's alleged killer well before the actual arrest. Patel now approaches congressional oversight hearings this week facing not just questions about that investigation but broader doubts about whether he can stabilise a federal law enforcement agency fragmented by political fights and internal upheaval. *—Agencies*

China probes US semiconductors ahead of trade talks



TAIPEI, 14 SEPT

China launched two probes targeting the US semiconductor sector Saturday ahead of talks between the two nations in Spain this week on trade, national security and the ownership of social media platform TikTok.

China's Ministry of Commerce announced an anti-dumping investigation into certain analog IC chips imported from the US. The investigation will target some commodity interface IC chips and gate driver IC chips, which are commonly made by US companies such as Texas Instruments and ON Semiconductor.

The ministry separately announced an anti-discrimination probe into US measures against China's chip sector.

US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent is set to meet Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Madrid between Sunday and Wednesday, He's office said.

TARIFFS WAR

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said that sanctions would only complicate wars, in response to US President Donald Trump asking NATO and G7 countries to impose sanctions on China and other buyers of Russian oil.

"China and Europe should be friends rather than rivals, and should cooperate rather than confront," Wang Yi said press conference in Ljubljana on Saturday. *—Agencies*

Islamist group wins 2nd B'desh varsity election

DHAKA, 14 SEPT

The student front of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), has swept the central student union elections at Jahangirnagar University (JU), securing 20 out of 25 posts. This victory follows their recent triumph at Dhaka University, raising eyebrows as the ICS had been virtually banned from the campus for nearly 35 years.

No seats were won by the BNP-backed student group, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), following the disbandment of Awami League's student wing, the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), which was declared a "terrorist organisation" by the interim government under Professor Muhammad Yunus.

The vice-presidential post went to Abdur Rashid Zitu from the newly formed group, Swatantra Shikkharthi Sammilon, who garnered 3,332 votes. Zitu had previously been with BCL before joining the Students Against Discrimination (SAD) and then establishing his own faction.

The ICS had not released a JU committee since 1989, with elections set to continue at Rajshahi University before Bangladesh's general elections. *—PTI*

Rubio arrives in Israel; 13 killed in Gaza

JERUSALEM, 14 SEPT

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio arrived in Israel on Sunday, as Israel intensified its attacks against northern Gaza, flattening another high-rise building and killing at least 13 Palestinians.

Rubio said ahead of the trip that he will be seeking answers from Israeli officials about how they see the way forward in Gaza following Israel's attack on Hamas operatives in Qatar last week that upended efforts to broker an end to the conflict.

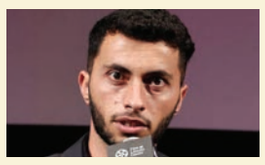
Rubio's visit is happening despite President Donald Trump's anger at Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the Israeli strikes in Doha.

His two-day visit is also a show of support for the increasingly isolated Israel, as the United Nations holds what is expected to be a contentious debate on commitment to the creation of a Palestinian state.

On Friday, Rubio and Trump spoke with Qatar's Prime Minister to discuss the fallout from the Israeli operation.

Separately, two Palestinian adults died of causes related to malnutrition and starvation in the Gaza Strip over the last 24 hours, the territory's health ministry reported on Sunday. *—PTI*

Secretary of State Marco Rubio will aim to bridge diplomatic gaps after Israel attacked US ally Qatar recently *PHOTO: PTI*



Oscar-winning director's home raided by IDF

Palestinian Oscar-winning director Basel Adra said that Israeli soldiers conducted a raid at his West Bank home on Saturday, searching for him and going through his wife's phone. Israeli settlers attacked his village, injuring two of his brothers and one cousin, the 'No Other Land' director said. He accompanied them to the hospital and while there, he said that he heard from family in the village that nine Israeli soldiers had stormed his home. He described the events as "horrific."

Now, Romania detects Russian drones

BUCHAREST, 14 SEPT

Romania scrambled its fighter jets on Saturday after reporting that Russian drones attacking neighbouring Ukraine had violated its airspace. This comes shortly after Poland shot down Russian drones in its airspace.

Romania's Defence Minister Ionut Mosteanu said the Air Force intercepted a Russian drone violating the national airspace and two F-16 fighter jets were deployed.

He added that the Romanian population was "never in danger".

"Together with our NATO Allies, we remain vigilant and ready to defend every inch of Allied airspace," he said on X.

Meanwhile, Ukraine launched at least 361 drones at Russia overnight, sparking a fire at the vast Kirishi oil refinery in Russia's northwest. No injuries were reported. The facility produces close to 17.7 million metric tonnes per year, or 355,000 barrels per day, of crude. *—Agencies*

> **Russia has deployed the Iskander tactical missile system to the Kaliningrad region. The ballistic missile can reach Warsaw in**
>
> **3 minutes**

'UNITE THE KINGDOM'

Musk joins UK's violent anti-immigration rally

LONDON, 14 SEPT

At least 25 people were arrested on Saturday after violent clashes erupted during one of the United Kingdom's largest right-wing demonstrations in recent years, London's Metropolitan Police Service said. This came during the 'Unite the Kingdom' rally, organised by anti-immigration, anti-Islam activist Tommy Robinson, which drew an estimated 110,000 to 150,000 participants to central London, including American tech mogul Elon Musk, who addressed the rally virtually.

In a statement, Assistant Commissioner Matt Twist stated that 26 officers were also injured in the violence, four of them seriously. Reported injuries included broken teeth, a suspected broken nose, a concussion, a prolapsed disc, and a head wound.

Twist added that the 25 arrests were "just the start".

In his speech, Musk said the Left was celebrating murder – a reference to the assassination of American Right-wing activist Charlie Kirk.

"Whether you choose violence or not, violence is coming to you," Musk said.

Other speakers at the event included French far-Right leader Éric Zemmour, and German MP Petr Bystron of the AfD party.

Many protesters carried UK and St George's Cross flags, along with American and Israeli flags. Some even wore "Make America Great Again" hats.

"Send them home," the protesters sloganeered, alongside messages opposing UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

Robinson promoted the event as a defence of British culture and free speech, declaring it a "force of patriotism never seen before."

The rally takes place amid a surge in support for the far-Right Reform UK party.

Demonstrators during far-Right activist Tommy Robinson's march in London, which Elon Musk addressed virtually *PHOTO: PTI*

> **Whether you choose violence or not, violence is coming to you. You either fight back or you die**
>
> —Elon Musk, American billionaire

Meanwhile, anti-racism demonstrators gathered nearby to condemn the rally's far-right messaging.

Holding placards reading "Refugees welcome" and "Smash the far right", the counterprotesters were joined by UK MPs Diane Abbott and Zarah Sultana. *—ANI*

'INDIAN-AMERICANS FAVOUR DEMOCRATS OVER REPUBLICANS'

HOUSTON, 13 SEPT

A new study has revealed that Indian-Americans predominantly support Democratic candidates, with their campaign contributions nearly tripling those given to Republicans. Titled "An Emerging Lobby: An Analysis of Campaign Contributions from Indian-Americans (1998–2022)," the research was conducted by Karnav Popat and Vishnu Prakash of Ashoka University, alongside Joyojeet Pal of the University of Michigan.

Released in September 2025, the study analysed two decades of political donations using Federal Election Commission data collected by OpenSecrets. During the 2020 presidential election cycle, Indian-Americans donated a substantial USD 46.6 million to Democratic candidates, compared to just USD 16.3 million for Republicans. Notably, only 0.6 per cent of Indian-American contributions were directed towards then-President Donald Trump's campaign in 2016.

The findings indicate that contributions from Indian-Americans are mainly concentrated in sectors such as technology, finance, healthcare, and academia, which elevate their political visibility. The community, now exceeding 4.9 million members, saw six individuals elected to Congress in the 2024 elections, demonstrating a significant engagement in the political landscape. *—PTI*

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Mercedes urges uniform road tax; expects big season

MUNICH, 14 SEPT

Mercedes-Benz India MD and CEO Santosh Iyer said the latest GST rate cut on luxury cars could make this festive season the firm's "best ever". From 22 September 2025, large cars now attract a flat 40 per cent GST with the compensation cess removed, cutting overall prices by 6–8 per cent. Iyer welcomed the move but urged a national cap and greater uniformity in state road taxes, which currently range from 15–22 per cent, so benefits reach buyers and support long-term growth. He noted India's luxury car sales mirror rising incomes and expects sustainable double-digit growth over the next decade. Mercedes-Benz has invested over Rs 3,000 crore in local production and plans to bring more global models to India. *—PTI*

Equity MF inflows drop by 25% MoM: JM Financial

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Equity mutual fund (MF) inflows, including hybrid schemes but excluding arbitrage, dropped to Rs 424 billion in August 2025, marking a 25 per cent month-on-month (MoM) and 8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline, according to data compiled by JM Financial. The sharp fall was largely attributed to a weaker new fund offering (NFO) pipeline, which accounted for 61 per cent of the Rs 142 billion MoM decline in net inflows. Equity and hybrid NFO inflows came in at just Rs 22 billion in August, significantly lower than the Rs 109 billion seen in July. On the debt side, MFs witnessed outflows of Rs 18 billion, while liquid funds saw a reversal of Rs 62 billion after a strong July. *—ANI*

IFC set for big gains from Tata Capital IPO

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) stands to reap substantial returns from Tata Capital's upcoming USD 2 billion initial public offering (IPO) as it seeks to reduce its stake in the non-banking finance company. IFC plans to offload 3.58 crore shares as part of its exit from a 2011 investment in Tata Cleantech Capital Ltd. The IPO is expected to launch in early October, following an extension granted by the Reserve Bank of India. IFC's investment, initially around Rs 25 per share, is now valued at nearly Rs 2,458 crore, projecting a profit of about Rs 2,278 crore. The IPO, which could be India's largest in its financial sector, aligns with RBI's listing mandate for upper-layer NBFCs. *—PTI*

Credai calls for sweeping land reforms in realty

SINGAPORE, 14 SEPT

India's real estate sector requires sweeping reforms in land policy, approvals, skills and urban development to become globally competitive, according to the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (Credai). Launching its "National Real Estate Development Framework – Vision 2047" at its annual conference, the body said the industry must shift from simply building structures to creating communities, livelihoods and aspirations. The framework sets out nine pillars: conclusive land titling through a Land Titling Act; a unified national digital land register; land banks for affordable housing; development of 100 "cities of tomorrow"; digitised, time-bound building plan approvals; and rationalised approval charges with dedicated infrastructure funds. *—PTI*

Govt reopens PLI application window for AC, LED lights

The 30-day application period starts from 15 Sept to 14 Oct

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

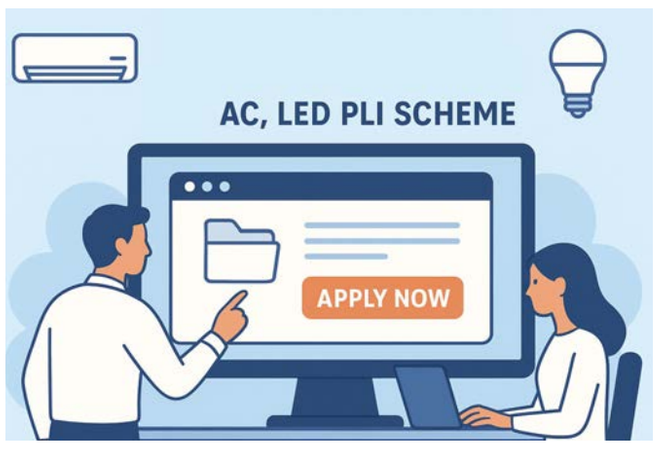
The government has reopened the application window for the PLI scheme for white goods (ACs and LED Lights) for 30 days, according to an official statement released on Sunday.

The window will remain open from 15 September to 14 October.

"The application window for the PLI (production-linked incentive) Scheme for White Goods is being reopened based on the appetite of the industry to invest more under the scheme," the commerce and industry ministry said.

No application will be accepted after the closure of the application window.

In order to avoid any discrimination, it said, both new applicants and existing beneficiaries of the scheme who propose to invest more by way of switching over to a higher target segment or their group companies applying under a different target segment would be eligible to apply, subject to certain conditions.



Applicants will only be eligible for incentives for the remainder of the scheme's tenure *PHOTO: AI*

Applicants will only be eligible for incentives for the remainder of the scheme's tenure.

The applicant approved in the proposed fourth round would be eligible for PLI for a maximum of two years only in the case of new applicants and beneficiaries opting for GP-2 (gestation period), seeking to move to a higher investment category.

So far, 83 applicants with committed investment of Rs 10,406 crore have been selected as beneficiaries under the PLI scheme.

- So far, 83 applicants with committed investment of Rs 10,406 crore have been selected as beneficiaries under the PLI scheme.

The investments will lead to the manufacturing of components of air conditioners and LED Lights across the complete value chain, including components which are not presently manufactured in India in sufficient quantity, the statement said.

The Union Cabinet had given approval for the scheme on 7 April, 2021.

The scheme is to be implemented over a seven-year period, from FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29 and has an outlay of Rs 6,238 crore. *—PTI*

MEET CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Over a dozen firms to raise ₹10,000 cr IPOs

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Over a dozen companies are gearing up to launch their IPOs over the next two to three weeks, aiming to raise nearly Rs 10,000 crore, buoyed by supportive policy measures, including GST 2.0 reforms, and the RBI's monetary policy easing through rate cuts.

Among the firms preparing to tap the primary markets are iValue Infosolutions, Saatvik Green Energy, JinKushal Industries, Atlanta Electricals, Park Medi World, SolarWorld Energy Solutions, Jain Resource Recycling, CIEL HR Services, GK Energy, Ganesh Consumer Products, Anand Rathi Share and Stock Brokers, and Seshaasai Technologies, merchant bankers said.

All these companies are expected to announce their price bands in the week beginning 15 September and plan to launch their IPOs before 30 September, they added.

Merchant bankers further indicated that this will be followed by offerings from Anantam Highway InvIT (Alpha Alternatives), Epack Prefab Technologies, Pranav Construction, and TruAlt Bioenergy. . Together, these companies are aiming to mobilise nearly Rs 10,000 crore.

All of them have already secured clearance from the markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India.

The fundraising will help companies meet capital expenditure requirements, finance expansion plans, repay borrowings, and cover general corporate purposes. The pipeline adds to an already strong year for IPOs. So far, 55 companies have floated their maiden public offerings, raising nearly Rs 75,000 crore.

Two more IPOs, Euro Pratik Sales and VMS TMT, are scheduled to open in next week. *—PTI*

Insurance Bill may be tabled in Winter session, says FM

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has signalled that the government may introduce the Insurance Amendment Bill in the upcoming Winter Session of Parliament, which normally begins in mid-November and ends before Christmas.

The Bill proposes to increase the foreign direct investment (FDI) ceiling in the insurance sector from the current 74 per cent to 100 per cent.

The measure was first announced in this year's Union Budget as part of a new wave of financial-sector reforms.

The higher limit will apply to companies investing their entire premium income in India. Existing guardrails and conditionalities attached to foreign investment are also set to be reviewed and simplified.

So far, the insurance industry has attracted about Rs 82,000 crore in FDI.

The Finance Ministry is preparing a broad legislative package that includes amending the Insurance Act 1938, reducing paid-up capital requirements and introducing a composite license.

In parallel, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act 1999 will be amended to empower LIC's board to take operational decisions, such as branch expansion and recruitment.

> **Tax Reforms for Rising Bharat' organised by Chennai Citizens Forum, she said the beneficial impact of Goods and Services Tax would be there for all products from the start of the day till people go to bed**
>
> -Nirmala Sitharaman, Union Finance Minister

According to government, these changes aim to strengthen policyholders' interests, improve financial security, attract new players and enhance competition.

Greater participation is expected to increase employment opportunities, improve efficiency and deepen insurance penetration to achieve the target of "Insurance for All by 2047".

India currently has 25 life insurers and 34 non-life or general insurers, including specialised firms. *—PTI*

Nayara Energy struggles amid EU sanctions on Russian crude

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Nayara Energy, partly owned by Russian oil giant Rosneft, is grappling with sourcing non-Russian crude for the second consecutive month, as Western shipping firms decline to transport oil for the company.

The Vadinar refinery in Gujarat, with a capacity of 400,000 barrels per day, has already reduced its operational rate, and is heavily reliant on Russian oil since August.

In August, Nayara received approximately 242,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Russian crude, and 332,000 bpd in early September, according to global trade analytics firm Kpler. However, the company did not secure crude from key suppliers like Iraq and Saudi Arabia during these months, having received around 120,000 bpd from them in July.

"Nayara's situation remains challenging under the weight of ongoing sanctions," said Sumit Ritolia, Lead Research Analyst at Kpler. "The refinery has struggled with compliance, shipping, payment channels, and lower crude imports."

Despite ongoing EU sanctions and increasing pressure from the US to reduce dependence on Russian supplies, India continues to import significant amounts of Russian crude, accounting for over a third of total imports. Ritolia added, "Indian refiners are unlikely to suddenly abandon Russian supply," as Russian barrels remain the most affordable option. *—PTI*

GST cut: Banks face car loan cancellations

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Banks are receiving requests for cancellation of approved car loans, in view of the implementation of GST rate cut on 22 Septemeber, which will lower the price of passenger vehicles and also lead to subsequent reduction in the amount needed to purchase them.

The 56th GST Council meeting earlier this month, approved substantial reduction in GST rate for cars up to 1,200 cc to 18 per cent from 28 per cent.

In a run up to 22 September, some of the customers who had their car loan approved, are now con- tacting the concerned branch for cancellation, as they want to purchase after the GST cuts are implemented, a senior official of a public sector bank said.

The official further said since the cancellation charges are very low compared to the benefit that they will get after 22 September, borrowers are opting for a fresh loan process. *—PTI*

Forex reserves up by $4.03B last week: RBI

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

India's foreign exchange reserves increased by USD 4.038 billion in the week ending 5 September, reaching USD 698.268 billion, primarily due to a rise in gold reserves, according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its latest 'Weekly Statistical Supplement'.

The forex reserves are now nearing their all-time high of USD 704.89 billion, achieved in September 2024.

RBI data indicates that gold reserves currently total USD 90.299 billion, reflecting an increase of USD 3.530 billion for the reported week.

For the same period, India's foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of these reserves, stood at USD 584.477 billion, rising by USD 540 million.

Following the recent monetary policy review meeting, RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated, "The foreign exchange kitty was sufficient to meet 11 months of the country's imports. *—ANI*

US Fed rate, inflation to steer mkts this week

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Equity markets are expected to keenly follow the outcome of the US Federal Reserve's policy meeting this week amid strong expectations of an interest rate cut, alongside the release of India's wholesale price index (WPI) inflation data, analysts said. Any fresh developments on the US–India trade front are also likely to shape market sentiment.

The US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) will announce its decision on 17 September, with investors widely anticipating at least a 25-basis-point reduction in interest rates following signs of a slowdown in the American labour market. On the domestic front, the direction of foreign institutional investor (FII) flows, the rupee–dollar exchange rate and global crude oil prices will also be key factors influencing trends.

Last week, the BSE Sensex climbed 1,193.94 points or 1.47 per cent, while the NSE Nifty advanced 373 points or 1.50 per cent, marking its eighth consecutive day of gains. *—PTI*

8 TOP FIRMS' MCAP RISES BY RS 1.69L CR

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

The market valuation of eight out of the top ten most valued firms surged by Rs 1,69,506.83 crore last week, buoyed by a positive trend at Dalal Street, where Bajaj Finance emerged as the biggest gainer. The BSE benchmark soared by 1,193.94 points, or 1.47 per cent.

Among the top ten firms, Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, TCS, Bharti Airtel, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Infosys, and Bajaj Finance recorded gains, whereas Hindustan Unilever Ltd and LIC saw a decline in their valuation. Notably, Bajaj Finance's market capitalisation increased by Rs 40,788.38 crore to Rs 6,24,239.65 crore. Infosys added Rs 33,736.83 crore to reach Rs 6,33,773.30 crore, while TCS's valuation surged by Rs 30,970.83 crore to Rs 11,33,926.72 crore.

Conversely, Hindustan Unilever's valuation dropped by Rs 12,429.34 crore, and LIC's by Rs 1,454.75 crore. Reliance Industries continues to lead as the most valued company, followed by HDFC Bank and TCS. *—PTI*

'Gold prices to stay up ahead of US Fed decision'

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Gold prices are expected to maintain their upward momentum though some consolidation could set in ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision on 17 September, analysts said.

Traders will focus on the trade inflation data to gauge the impact of tariffs, inflation numbers from major economies including UK and Euro zone, along with monetary policy meetings of Bank of England and Bank of Japan which will provide more guidance for bullion prices, they added.

The Fed's two-day meeting is scheduled to begin on 16 September, and will conclude on 17 September, with a policy decision, followed by Chair Jerome Powell's press conference, set to draw attention amid rising tensions between the US President Donald Trump's administration and Fed officials.

On the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX), the most traded gold futures for October delivery climbed Rs 1,616 or 1.5 per cent. *—PTI*

OpenAI, ARISE partner to empower India's K-12 tutors

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Artificial Intelligence giant OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT, has collaborated with the Association for Reinventing School Education (ARISE) to bring advanced artificial intelligence tools and training to K-12 educators across India.

ARISE, a body for private school reform in collaboration with FICCI, hosted a Masterclass on "Empowering School Education Through AI" as part of its 8th Annual Education Conference held in Delhi.

The Masterclass, delivered by OpenAI, offered practical demonstrations of how artificial intelligence can support teachers in lesson planning, improve student engagement, and personalize learning experiences. It highlighted the potential of AI not as a replacement for educators, but as a powerful ally in strengthening teacher-learner relationship.

The session also underscored the purpose of the ongoing collaboration is to provide structured training, awareness programs, and usage enablement for ARISE's member schools. By equipping academic staff with the skills to integrate AI responsibly, the initiative aims to ensure schools are future-ready, while maintaining a strong focus on pedagogy, ethics, and India's diverse educational realities.

ARISE said that the collaboration reflects a shared commitment to strengthening India's school education ecosystem by equipping teachers and schools with the tools to adapt to emerging technologies. *–ANI*

JEOPARDISING LIVELIHOODS

Goa miners fear over export duty on low-grade iron

PANAJI, 14 SEPT

The Goa Mineral Ore Exporters' Association (GMOEA) on Sunday expressed concern over speculation about the possible extension of export duty to low-grade iron ore.

In a representation to the central government, the GMOEA urged it to reconsider any such move, claiming it could severely disrupt mining operations in Goa, where the iron ore is predominantly of low grade.

Given the region's unique mineral profile and the lack of domestic demand for such ore, GMOEA claimed that imposing export duties would not only jeopardise livelihoods and regional economic activity but also lead to stockpiling and wastage of a valuable natural resource.

Goan iron ore is largely unsuitable for domestic steelmaking *PHOTO: PTI*

The representation by GMOEA comes in response to recent media reports suggesting the possible extension of export duties to low-grade iron ores (below 58 per cent Fe).

The reports stemmed from deliberations held during the high-level stakeholders' meeting convened on 26 August, focused on introducing reforms to enhance iron ore and steel production in India.

While the intent of the meeting was to address supply chain bottlenecks and support the steel sector which is laudable, GMOEA said there is a need to avoid unintended consequences for regions with distinct mineral profiles.

However, Item E of the committee's Terms of Reference, which reportedly considers the rationalisation of export policies, has sparked concerns that the export duty regime may be extended even to low-grade iron ore, the association said.

Goan iron ore, being predominantly low-grade, is largely unsuitable for domestic steelmaking, where higher-grade ore from eastern India or Bellary is preferred due to better cost efficiency.

The GMOEA said even local pig iron units mostly depend on imported or non-Goan ore. *—PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Jepchirchir wins marathon gold in last-spurt duel

TOKYO, 14 SEPT

Kenya's Peres Jepchirchir edged Ethiopia's Tigst Assefa in a thrilling sprint finish at Tokyo's National Stadium to win the women's marathon at the world championships on Sunday, adding the world title to the Olympic crown she won in Sapporo in 2021. The 31-year-old broke the tape at two hours, 24 minutes, and 43 seconds, just two seconds ahead of Paris silver medallist Assefa. In the wide-open battle for bronze, a surprised Julia Paternain triumphed to give Uruguay its first-ever medal at the worlds, clocking 2:27.23 in her first world championships. For more than two-thirds of the race, Jepchirchir and Assefa were content to hang back as American Susanna Sullivan charged ahead solo.—*PTI*

MotoGP extends Misano contract until 2031

DUBAI, 14 SEPT

MotoGP will continue to race at the Misano World Circuit until 2031 at least, rights holders Dorna Sports announced on Sunday ahead of the San Marino Grand Prix., The circuit, a home track for both Ducati and Aprilia that is named after the late MotoGP rider Marco Simoncelli, had a contract with MotoGP until 2026 but is now sure of hosting five more race weekends after that., "We are proud and delighted to continue hosting MotoGP in our territory, " San Marino Grand Prix promoters said in a statement.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

India coach names 30 probables for AFC Asia Cup QFs

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

Fresh from India's creditable third-place finish in the CAFA Nations Cup, the national men's football team head coach Khalid Jamil on Sunday announced a 30-member probables squad, including talisman Sunil Chhetri, for the upcoming AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Singapore. The national team's preparatory camp will begin in Bengaluru on September 20, with the squad reporting to the city a day prior. Players from Mohun Bagan SG and FC Goa, who have been shortlisted for the probables squad, will be called up later after their AFC Champions League 2 engagements are over.Apart from these, five players have been kept on standby – two from the U23 men's national team, and three senior players. Their names will be announced at a later date.The camp is aimed at helping the Blue Tigers prepare for their two 2027 Asian Cup Qualifiers final round in Group C.—*PTI*

Charley Hull takes 1-shot lead over Jeeno Thitikul

MAINEVILLE, 14 SEPT

Charley Hull shot a 5-under 67 to take a one-stroke lead over top-ranked Jeeno Thitikul after three rounds of the Kroger Queen City Championship. Hull birdied four of her final eight holes to post 16-under 200 at TPC River's Bend, and credited her straightforward mental approach. "I just hit a ball and find it and hit it again, you know what I mean? I think that's the trouble with many golfers, overthinking," Hull said. "It's just a game. Hit a white ball at the pin. Make a birdie or make a par, make a bogey, whatever, just roll on to the next hole." Thitikul, seeking to become the first multiple winner on the LPGA Tour this season, shot 68.—*PTI*

ISSF: Meghana wins maiden WC medal, India finish 5th

Esha Singh on the podium with Olympic champion OH Yejin and silver medallist Yao Qianxun PHOTO: X/@NRAI

NINGBO, 14 SEPT

India's Meghana Sajjanar clinched her first-ever World Cup medal, a bronze in the women's 10m air rifle, as the country finished fifth in the season-ending ISSF World Cup Rifle/Pistol.

In her first World Cup final in eight years, Meghana shot 230.0 to secure bronze behind Norwegian Jeanette Hegg Duestad, who won silver. The event was dominated by China's rising star Peng Xinlu, who shattered the world record with a score of 255.3, bettering compatriot Wang Zifei's 254.8.

On Saturday, Esha Singh gave India their first gold medal of the event in the women's 10m air pistol.

China topped the tally with three golds, while Norway came away second with two golds in their kitty, of the 10 available.

Early on Sunday morning, Meghana shot a solid 632.7 in the second qualification rally to claim the seventh spot, while Peng topped with a superlative 637.4.

The Chinese began the 24-shot final with a perfect 10.9 as Meghana lay at the bottom of the eight-woman field after the first series of five single shots.

A strong second series of 52.3 moved her up to sixth, and over the next 10 single shots, the experienced Indian shot nothing less than 10.2, including a crucial 10.9 for her 12th, to ensure her first-ever medal at this level.

With individual neutral athlete Mariia Vasileva just 0.3 behind ahead of the 19th shot, Meghana still had a bit of work to do, but two 10.4s put paid to any hopes Mariia would have harbored.

India also reached a second final on the day, their fourth overall in Ningbo, as Kiran Ankush Jadhav shot 590 in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions qualification round, to claim the fourth spot. —*PTI*

Strong Sri Lanka face struggling Hong Kong

Hong Kong is a side that has lost two games in a row

DUBAI, 14 SEPT

Sri Lanka will look to build on their perfect start in the Asia Cup when they take on a struggling Hong Kong here on Monday.

Sri Lanka, who won the Asia Cup the last time it was held in the T20 format, ticked all boxes in their opener against Bangladesh.From getting wickets in the powerplay to sealing the game inside the first six overs with the bat, Sri Lanka sent ominous signals to the tougher teams in the eight-team competition.

They meet Hong Kong, a side that has lost two games in a row, with its batters having a tough time against the more accomplished opponents.

Axar Patel enjoys Pakistan wicket in Dubai. Pakistan 127 for 9 PHOTO: X/@ASIACUP

SL vs Hong Kong and UAE, Oman Matches starts @ 8.00 pm IST

UAE, Oman seek first points in Group A clash

Hosts United Arab Emirates will look to shake off the drubbing against India when they face debutants Oman in a Group A clash at the Asia Cup here on Monday.

UAE, playing only their second Asia Cup, were skittled for a mere 57 in 13.1 overs in their opener as India raced to their fastest T20 win.

Oman too fared no better, bowled out for 67 in 16.4 overs while chasing 161 against Pakistan, underlining the gulf in class between the associate teams and the tournament heavyweights. Coach Lalchand Rajput, who had coached India to the T20 World Cup triumph in 2007. —*PTI*

Ganguly set to return as CAB president unopposed

KOLKATA, 14 SEPT

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly is all set to be elected unopposed as the president of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB). He will replace his brother Snehasish from the post.

Ganguly was the lone candidate to file his nomination papers for the top post by today's deadline and would return as the CAB chief after six years. He had earlier served as the CAB president from 2015 to 2019.

This marks another stint for the former India batter in cricket administration; he was the BCCI president from 2019 to 2022. —*PTI*

HONG KONG OPEN

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty PHOTO: PTI

Satwik-Chirag, Lakshya finish runners-up

HONG KONG, 14 SEPT

India squandered a golden opportunity to return with two titles as both Lakshya Sen and the men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty signed off with runner-up finishes at the Hong Kong Open Super 500 here on Sunday.

Lakshya could not blunt the attack of world No. 4 Li Shi Feng and went down 15-21, 12-21 in a rather sedate men's singles final. Satwik and Chirag, who bagged a second successive World Championships bronze last month, let go of a one-game advantage before losing 21-19, 14-21, 17-21 to China's Olympic silver medallists Liang Wei Keng and Wang Chang in a tense 61-minute men's doubles summit clash. "Yeah, obviously feels good. Been a good week, especially after the world championships a week later, and here we are playing a final. Feels good," Chirag said.

"You would want to go and win that title, but I think, credit to them, they played well. There's always a next time, and overall, I'm happy with the performance." For Lakshya, it was his first final since the Syed Modi Super 300 last November, but he could not match his familiar foe Li, against whom he was playing for the 14th time in a rivalry dating back to their junior days. The Indian held a slender 7-6 edge in the head-to-head, but the Chinese has dominated this season with wins at both the All England and China Open. The 2021 World Championship bronze medallist Lakshya made a brisk start in the opening game. —*PTI*

Ankit, Siddarth lead South Zone's fightback

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

Ankit Sharma (99, 168b, 13x4, 1x6) and Andre Siddarth (84 n.o., 190b, 7x4) nearly scripted an incredible comeback for South Zone, but a spate of late wickets allowed Central Zone to keep a firm grip on proceedings on Sunday.

On the fourth day of the Duleep Trophy summit clash at the BCCI CoE Ground (1), Ankit and Siddarth batted for nearly four hours to create panic in the Central camp. From facing an innings defeat at 222 for six, Ankit and Siddarth provided dogged resistance for 55 overs, handing South an improbable lead of 52 runs.

It all changed when Ankit was dismissed. After blocking a couple of deliveries from left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya, Ankit lost the plot and spooned a flighted ball to mid-wicket.Central's long wait for a wicket ended, and a few overs later, South was dismissed for 426. —*PTI*

India loses to China in Women's Hockey AC final

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

India fell to a 1-4 defeat against China in the Women's Hockey Asia Cup 2025 final on Sunday at the Gongshu Canal Sports Park Stadium in China.

With this loss, India failed to clinch direct qualification for next year's World Cup. Winners of continental competitions secure a berth in the tournament, and with this title, China has secured its spot.

It was Navneet Kaur who put India ahead in just the first minute through a penalty corner after the host thwarted two back-to-back penalty corners. But China levelled the score 20 minutes later through Ou Zixia's strike from a penalty corner.

At the half-time break, India kept China's attacks at bay and maintained the scoreline at 1-1. —*PTI*

AUS WOMEN WIN BY 8 WICKETS

BENGALURU, 14 SEPT

Fifties from Phoebe Litchfield, Beth Mooney, and Annabel Sutherland helped Australia clinch the first ODI against India in New Chandigarh.

India were left to rue several spilled chances including one of Litchfield on zero as they could not defend 281.

After India opted to bat, they too had three players Smriti Mandhana, Pratika Rawal, and Harleen Deol score half-centuries, but Australia's overall performance, specifically Litchfield's masterclass against spin, helped them ease past the hosts by eight wickets. With India fielding four spinners and one seamer, they opened the bowling with Kranti Goud and Sneh Rana. —*PTI*

MAKES HISTORY

10-year-old Indian Atiqa wins UAE race from pole position

DUBAI, 14 SEPT

Indian racing's 10-year-old prodigy Atiqa Mir on Sunday created history by becoming the first woman in UAE karting to win a race in the Minimax category.

In a competitive field of 14 drivers, including seasoned European race winners, Atiqa was the lone female, but that was hardly a factor as she completed a commanding victory from pole position in the prestigious DAMC Championship opener at the Dubai Kartdrome.

Atiqa Mir PHOTO: PTI

In the finals, Atiqa kept it clean and within track limits to cross the chequered flag before anyone else. The win makes her the first ever female to take a pole and a final win in the MiniMax category, marking a perfect start to her Middle Eastern Karting leg.

Recognising her rare talent, Formula 1 had signed her for its F1 Academy DYD program earlier this year, another first for an Indian driver.

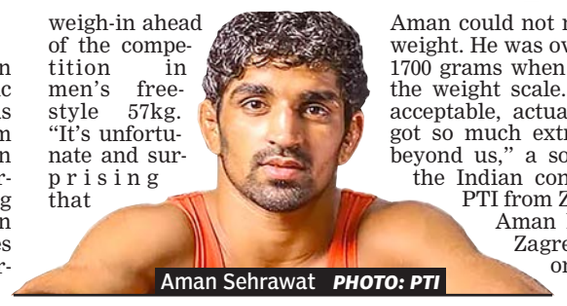
"I'm so happy with this win. Dubai Kartdrome is where I started karting, so this track will always remain close to my heart. I got limited running in preparation for this race, but I was still able to be on pace. Big thanks to my sponsors, AKCEL Academy, for all their support," said Atiqa.

Fresh off a successful European season, Atiqa was in Dubai for a quick stop and will head to Slovakia next for Champions of the Future Academy Round 4, where she drives for the F1 DYD program. —*PTI*

Olympian wrestler Aman disqualified from WC

NEW DELHI, 14 SEPT

In a big setback to the Indian wrestling contingent, Olympic medallist Aman Sehrawat was on Sunday disqualified from the World Championship in Zagreb after being found overweight.In an embarrassing development, Aman, who won a bronze at the Paris Games last year, was found to be overweight by 1.7kg during the weigh-in ahead of the competition in men's freestyle 57kg. "It's unfortunate and surprising that Aman could not maintain his weight. He was overweight by 1700 grams when he stood on the weight scale. This is not acceptable, actually. How he got so much extra weight is beyond us," a source within the Indian contingent told PTI from Zagreb.



Aman Sehrawat PHOTO: PTI

Aman had reached Zagreb, Croatia, on 25 August for an acclimatisation camp along with other Indian wrestlers and had enough time to make weight. The 22-year-old Aman, who trains at the famed Chhattrasal stadium, was one of the strong medal contenders among Indians.

He secured a bronze at the Ulaanbaatar Open in June this year, losing to Mexico's Roman Bravo-Young in the semifinals. —*PTI*

MESSI MISSES PENALTY

Toklomati hat-trick seals record-equalling win

LONDON, 22 JAN

Charlotte FC equalled an MLS record as they eased past 10-man Inter Miami 3-0 on the back of Idan Toklomati's hat-trick. Lionel Messi's 32nd-minute penalty miss paved the way for a dismal day at the office for Miami, who have slipped down to eighth in the Eastern Conference.

With two games in hand on the teams around them, Miami's playoff fate is still in their hands, but they were dispatched by MLS's in-form side at the Bank of America Stadium.

Messi PHOTO: X/@FC

Two minutes after Messi got a Panenka attempt all wrong from the spot, with the penalty awarded following a VAR review, Toklomati opened the scoring as he swept in from Kerwin Vargas' centre.

The Israeli forward made it 2-0 just after the restart, finishing off a sweeping move that was instigated by Wilfried Zaha feeding Brandt Bronico.

Tomas Aviles received his marching orders for a second bookable offence in the 79th minute, and Miami's misery was compounded soon after as Toklomati completed his hat-trick from the penalty spot after Zaha was scythed down by Sergio Busquets.

History in Charlotte's sights, Charlotte have now won nine successive MLS games, matching the competition record of consecutive wins in a single season, which was set by the Seattle Sounders in 2018.

Toklomati PHOTO: X/@FC

Dean Smith's team, who accumulated an impressive 2.37 expected goals, xG, from just 10 attempts, sit third in the Eastern Conference, just four points back from the Philadelphia Union in first place, and have now surged into the playoffs. —*PTI*

Davis Cup: Belgium beats Australia to reach final

SYDNEY, 14 SEPT

Australia's comeback attempt from a 2-0 deficit fell short on Sunday when Belgium's Raphael Collignon beat Aleksandar Vukic in the decisive fifth match in Sydney to secure a 3-2 win in their qualifying tie and a place in November's Davis Cup Final 8. U.S. Open quarterfinalist Alex de Minaur, who had hoped for a "comeback story" despite Saturday's losses, beat Zizou Bergs in straight sets to level the second-round tie after Australia's Jordan Thompson and Rinky had won the doubles match. But Collignon, who beat world number eight De Minaur on Saturday, shook off a first-set stumble against Vukic to win 6-7(5), 6-2, 6-3. Belgium became the seventh team to reach the Final 8 after Argentina, Austria, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, and defending champion Italy, which qualified as the host. Denmark, which took a 2-0 lead over Spain in Marbella on Saturday. The Final 8 will take place in Bologna from 18 to 23 November. —*PTI*

Raphael Collignon PHOTO: X/@DCUP